

Amelia Composita



DELVES,

A

WELCH TALE.

BY MRS. GUNNING.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

THE THIRD EDITION.

VOL. II.

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A

WELCH TALE.

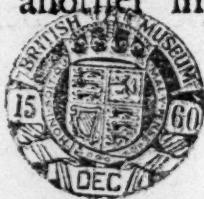
CHAP. I.

Scene Continued.

MY joyful confusion beginning to subside, looking round I missed Winifred, and asked Papa Owen what was become of her; "she is gone to keep company with my lady's woman," said he, "this company befits not her station, though my lady was so good to make her one of it at your reception." I answered, "it should not be long before I would see
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“her again,” and running from one to the other till my head began to grow giddy, I threw myself down on the carpet, whilst my two lovely friends, with approbation sparkling in their countenances, stood by observing my motions, and smiling on each other, “why don’t you get up,” said Agnetta. My heart never resisted any command of her imposing, I jumped upon my legs, and running to Mamma, easily obtained permission to walk with them over the lawn. We were attended by a waiting woman, Trimbush, and Alexander, when as in former times joining hand in hand, we ran from walk to walk, from parterre to parterre, we talked of the garland, of preceptor Cecil, of brother Numps and of Mr. Darcy, but in a manner so interrupted, so incoherent, that there is no repeating even the substance of our conversation; all that I could understand, was, only that young Godolphin was sent to a public school near London, that the girls were going to another in Queen Square

and



and that their Papa and Mamma were come to live in England.

The month we spent together at Eveline Lodge, contained for us as many sweet moments as any other in the calendar of our lives. Mr. Darcy came thither very often to visit my new Papa; he no more than the rest of them expressed any anger at my elopement, nor did his affection for the little Delves seem in the least diminished, he made me repeat to him all my adventures; I did not forget to tell him every thing relating to the crazy lord, and I also longed to tell him who were my parents, but something or other prevented me from reposing this confidence in their intimate friend; I believe it was the fear that he might speak again to them of the discovery I had made, and I could not bear the thought of incurring their displeasure. On the subject of Alexander, I knew no reserve, I repeated with tears in my eyes the little story of the sick wife, the

pardon, and the purse; I described with energy the poor creature's emotions of gratitude, as he rehearsed to me the mercy, and the generosity of his gracious benefactor.

Mr. Darcy caught me in his arms, and pressing me tenderly between them, "I am charmed," said he, "my dear boy, to see you affected by an action of common humanity, of common charity; it is the prognostic of a heart that will one day when you have it in your power to do good, instruct you that the purest springs of human felicity are derived from benevolence, and the most acceptable service we can perform in the sight of Heaven to pity and pardon the wretch who prostitutes himself before us, afflicted and penitent. I am glad my friend Sir Edward has placed Alexander about your person, he is honest and faithful, his crime was cowardice, and perhaps his constitution

“constitution is more accountable for
“that fault than his inclinations.”

Self knowledge is a perfect science, and always allowed to be obtained with more difficulty than most other studies, yet I had acquired enough of it to be convinced at an early stage of life, that had my errors been attacked violently, instead of being approached with gentleness, they would have increased rather than diminished. A man and his faults, being like a man and his wife, so closely united, that he who appears the enemy of one is conceived to be the enemy of both, and whoever would sever them should set about it with address, which will sometimes succeed, where force would avail nothing.

Neither Papa, Mamma, Mr. Darcy, or indeed any of my friends, ever told me I was too rude, too bold, too idle, too stubborn, or too any thing else that I ought not to be; but I did not want understanding

to find out that the praises they bestowed on mildness, modesty, application, and compliance, were so many kind lessons by which I was expected to profit; whether I did or did not profit by them, will hereafter be established.

CHAP. II.

The Separation.

BEFORE the breaking up of our party, I was informed by Sir Edward and Lady Eveline, that in three days they should convey me to Eton school, whither they had prevailed on Mr. Owen and his house-keeper Winifred to settle themselves, that I might board with them; as being my old friends, on their care of my health they could depend; and that Alexander had asked leave, and was permitted to attend me.

As

As a proof that the sturdiest disposition may be rendered flexible, by the moulding of kindness, little Delves started no growling objections to this arrangement; though to speak the truth, without meaning to disparage Papa Owen, or Mother Winifred, or without loving them less, since he had enjoyed the benefit of better society, theirs would have been the last he would have chosen for the solace of his domestic hours; on the contrary, he seemed not only perfectly satisfied, but returned with as much warmth as expression will allow to real and grateful emotions, those feelings with which his heart was bursting, at the goodness of these adorable parents.

Papa Owen, with Winifred seated by his side, removed to the house, prepared for their reception at Eton, in a post-chaise of Sir Edward's, two days before Sir Edward and his Lady themselves conveyed me to my new residence; and on the same morning the Colonel, and Mrs. Godolphin set

out with their daughters, for the metropolis. Our adieus were tender, I drew my hat over my eyes, Agnetta wept.

I think the first severe disappointment I ever experienced, was on our arrival at Eton; when after Sir Edward had been with the masters, I was told that neither Trimbush, or Alexander, could be permitted to remain with me at college. I thought my heart would have broken, a thousand times did I embrace them both, a thousand times recommended them to the love of each other; I do not know that I felt much severer pangs in parting with Sir Edward and Lady Eveline, who to dry up my tears, promised they would send my servant and my dog very frequently to visit me.

Having no longer these dear objects in my sight, I turned my thoughts to the necessity of application, that I may not disgrace by my education the parents who would one day acknowledge me, and whom I now
loved

loved much more for their goodness to me, than I had loved them before for their twenty thousand pounds a year.

Mr. Darcy had given me a large purse of gold, when I left him behind me, at Eveline Lodge, together with a lecture, the value of which I did not quite so well know at that time, although I have since experienced it to have been above all price.

“ I understand,” said he, “ that it is the
“ intention of your new friends, not to take
“ you from school, until you have com-
“ pleted your seventeenth year, when they
“ hope to see united in you, the scholar,
“ the gentleman, and the christian ; the lit-
“ tle offering which my friendship would
“ have you accept, shall be yearly renewed,
“ not as a gift, but a property of which I
“ appoint you the steward ; I shall never
“ call you to any reckoning, your conscience
“ is your master, make up your accounts
“ with that, and I shall be satisfied. An ho-

“ next steward can only claim his wages ; he
“ is the servant of benevolence, and the
“ more freely he scatters, the more liberal-
“ ly he is repaid. Tell me my dear child,”
added Mr. Darcy, “ do you comprehend
“ what I am saying to you ?”

“ I do indeed Sir,” I replied, with viva-
city, “ and I will never spend one of these
“ guineas, upon any selfish gratification, but
“ may I not give a few of them to Alexan-
“ der?”

“ No ! Alexander is provided with all
“ the necessaries of life ; he may deserve, but
“ he does not stand in need of your bounty,
“ keep it for the necessitous, whose age,
“ poverty or infirmities, will ally them-
“ selves to your compassion, whose claims
“ you cannot shake off, without at the same
“ time loosening the very chords which
“ bind you to the system of humanity.”

I no

I no sooner became reconciled to my school, and my school-fellows, than I diligently applied to seize on every improvement within my reach, nor were the blossoms of genius less strong for blowing as mine did at a late season; this is all that I shall say of the four years I remained at Eton, for if the tricks of a school-boy are diverting to himself, there are little hopes that a repetition of them can afford the same entertainment to a manly reader.

The personal improvements of little Delves, were declared by all his partial friends, to have even out-stripped his knowledge in the languages dead or living; the graces of elocution, the art of dancing, riding, skating, or fencing, in all of which accomplishments his various masters allowed him to excel every body but themselves; because for such condescensions, they were sure to receive, not only the thanks of Sir Edward and Lady Eveline, but such magnificent gratuities as very amply indemnified

fied them, for any little sacrifices they may have made at the shrine of deceit. Truth might have disputed with the masters the perfections of their pupil, but his friends were not inclined to doubt of their reality, they rather saw them double; Sir William, Lady Eveline, and Mr. Darcy, confined their admiration to silent ecstacy, Papa Owen, Winifred, and Alexander, spoke theirs in unequivocal phrases, even Trimbush seemed to love me less, and to respect me more. Whatever my improvements might have been, those of Agnetta and Henrietta my eyes witnessed, and my whole soul acknowledged; our interviews were seldom, but our attachment strengthened rather than diminished, and every future separation was attended with more pain than the former. For the last year of my school studies, we never met, the Colonel's family had made an excursion to the continent; I did not even expect to see them any more before my removal to the University, where I was to enjoy the solace of Trimbush and Alexander

Alexander in lieu of Papa Owen and Winifred, who having nobly fulfilled their kind offices, returned back to their temple of love in the bosom of Wales, loaded with my thanks, embraces, and many more substantial marks of friendship from the hands of my generous benefactors.

On passing through London, in our way to Oxford, Lady Eveline asked if I should like staying a few days in town, to partake of its diversions.

During the four years I had been under their respectable protection, I had passed but five nights in London, and even these with a sort of discontented reluctance from the very great preference I gave to their residence in the country. Hitherto they had submitted to my humour, it now seemed incumbent on me to bend my will to theirs, and that very evening I had the honor to attend my lovely Mamma, to her box at the Opera.

My

My hair was turned up for the first time, and whether it was owing to the change it made on my features, or from the excessive growth of my person, since I last appeared in the same situation, I fancied every eye in the house was fixed upon me ; Lady Eveline whispered me to the same effect. " I do not know how the men might like " you Delves," said she, " but I foresee, " that you will be a favorite of the wo- " men."

" I shall not be too vain of that distinc- " tion," said I, " unless you can persuade " me, that their approbation is valuable " from its scarcity, and that they do not " lavish it on all men alike."

" Upon my word, young gentleman, if " such are your conditions, before your " scruples will be satisfied, I fear we must " have a new creation, or at least another " generation ; our young females of fashion, " not being made after your model."

" It

"It is the fault of their mothers," I replied.

"How so?"

"Why if they would set them an example of reserve, I dare say it would be followed."

"I do not know that you are very wrong, but you are an absolute churl, not to make allowances for the prejudices of fashion."

"Ah Madam, I speak as I think; you do not, or you would say as I do, that in the decency of dress, and chastity of manner, there should be no fashion, but what modesty sanctions."

"Indeed you are prodigious wise, pray where did you pick up your wisdom?"

"Not

“Not, thank God, from experience; I
“never gave myself any trouble about
“them, but there are some young men,
“very little older than myself, who are
“much in the world, on whose judgment
“I rely, and on whose opinion I have
“founded my own.”

I observed all the time we had been
speaking, Lady Eveline constantly turned
her head towards the door of a vacant box,
next to her own; at last it opened, and I
had the transport of beholding my old
friend Mrs. Godolphin descend, followed
by my adorable Agnetta, and her charming
sister.

C H A P. III.

Disappointment.

A GNETTA no longer in the dress of a child, with the graceful form of woman, blended a reserve that disgusted me; her mother received the hand I offered, and pressed it with great kindness, but by Agnetta it was rejected; who said with a blush, which infinitely became the cast of her features, "Will you never forget Sir, "that we are no longer children?"

"If you are changed I am not," I replied in a pet, turning to the lively animated

mated Henrietta, and asking if she too was
prude enough to deny an old acquaint-
ance?

“Not I indeed,” said she, “nor my sister
neither, it is only a copy of her coun-
tenance.”

“Oh! then,” I replied, “if she has not
laid by her friends with her dolls, she
must have acquired a great deal of affec-
tation, I am glad to see *you* more natu-
ral.”—Then casting a glance of resent-
ment on Agnetta, I turned away, some-
times speaking to Lady Eveline, sometimes
to Mrs. Godolphin till the dancing began;
when my eyes happening to wander a little
towards the fair offender, I saw a very fine
young man engaging the whole of her at-
tention, whom I immediately recollected to
have been once my school-fellow, Lord
Charles Harley, the younger son of a new
made marquis. I was too proud, and too
angry, to renew my acquaintance with him,

at

at this chance interview ; I had no conception that I loved Agnetta, yet I thought myself more entitled to her notice than any other youth of my standing, and resented her obvious neglect with all the jealousy of the most passionate adorer. I therefore sat surly, swelling and silent, the rest of the evening, and when pressed by Mrs. Gololphin to visit her before I left town, I only replied, that if it was possible to prevail on Sir Edward and Lady Eveline to leave it the next morning, I hoped to be at Oxford before dinner ; adding, that I hated London, its airs, its graces, and its insincerities. I might have been rather less rude, if I had not observed Agnetta attentively listening to our conversation ; she smiled, and nodded, but her smiles, and her nods, had no effect on my exasperated passions.

My humour was still adverse to harmony, and on our return to Portland-Place Lady Eveline had several times repeated the same question,

question, "What is the matter with you
"Delves?" and at last desired to know with
whom I had left my gaiety; I had replied
only to this home charge, by kissing her
hand, and intreating that she would permit
me to attend the only friends I had in the
world, to Oxford, the very next day.

"I expect," said she, with an air, more
than commonly serious, "that you will ac-
"count for this request to Sir Edward, and
"if you can satisfy him that it is a rea-
"sonable one, I promise you to start no
"objection."

Her words, and her tone, had something
in them so repellant to the freedom of my
spirit, that I became more and more disa-
greeable to myself, as well as to her Lady-
ship, who on meeting Sir Edward in the
supper-room, where he waited our return,
said to him laughing, "This boy has taken
"it into his head, to be offended at some-
"body, or something that he has met with

"at

“at the Opera ; he wants us to hasten our
“excursion to Oxford, that he might con-
“ceal his chagrin in the cloisters of a col-
“lege ; shall we indulge his sedentary
“wishes, and set out immediately ? The
“moon is bright, every thing is in favor of
“this charming romantic expedition ; for
“my part, I hate delays, particularly where
“the health of mind or body is at stake ;
“poor Delves is sick at heart, nothing
“pleases him, no, not even the sight of
“his earliest friends, the pretty Godolphins,
“who have sat at his elbow the whole of
“the evening.”

“I do not understand,” said Sir Edward,
as he stood with his back to the fire, and
his hands behind him, whilst I had slunk
on one side of it to avoid observation, “nor
“can I comprehend how Delves, so situat-
“ed, should be capable of feeling disgust
“though the singing had been bad, and the
“dancing execrable.”

“Neither

“Neither was that the case,” returned my tormenting Mamma, “I never saw a better performance, yet he only wants our consent to set off for Oxford tomorrow morning.”

Luckily the servants brought in supper, which relieved me from the force of a railery, that I could not feel myself the object of without being covered with confusion from a consciousness of having deserved it, and by the time they were again withdrawn, the amiable condescension of those dear friends had restored me to so much good humour, that in hopes to make them forget my past unaccountable caprice, I sung several airs of that favorite Opera; the representation of which had cost me so much humiliation.

They had each the goodness to extend a hand, and a smile of the fondest affection, to compleat the conquest I strove to gain over myself.

“I give

"I give you a great deal of credit," said Sir Edward, "for this exertion."

"I agree with you," cried Lady Eveline, "what say you Delves, shall we set out to-morrow, or shall we as at first proposed, remain where we are a few days longer?"

"Oh! Good God," cried I, "is it only in the mirror of your amiable qualities, that I am doomed to behold the deformity of my own temper;" my face was spread with blushes, and my eyes cast on the ground.

"But you do not declare what are your inclinations, speak then without fear," said Sir Edward, "they must be unreasonable indeed, if we do not with pleasure adopt them."

Corrosive measures administered as remedies to a mind diseased, is a sword of steel, trying to pierce marble, but the balm
of

of forbearing kindness will penetrate the hardest natures.—“I have no wish, no inclination,” I exclaimed, grasping their hands, and pressing them to a heart which throbbed with gratitude, “I have no desire in the world, but to convince you of my love, my duty, my obedience.”

“Begin with giving us the whole of your confidence,” said Mamma, smiling archly; “tell us what it was that displeased you at the Opera.”

“Oh! I shall confess it with all my heart. Agnetta is grown so haughty, that she would hardly acknowledge me.”

“Perhaps what you call haughtiness is nothing more than that maidenly modesty which but this very night I have heard you abuse the modern mothers for not instilling into the manners of their daughters.”

“We

"We must allow the ladies," added Sir Edward, "to be the best judges, of what belongs to the delicacy of their own sex, and I expect that my wife's arguments will convince you, that you have formed a false opinion respecting your little friend."

"I will believe whatever you would have me," said I, "yet if indeed, it was modesty which made her so distant to me, what was it, my dear Madam, that drew her so near to Harley? I had rather speak my injuries, than make believe they were forgotten, that I might secretly revenge them with usury."

"But who is it that you suppose has injured you? not Agnetta, for I saw nothing amiss in her conduct, neither have you any cause of acquisition against Lord Charles Harley; perhaps there may be family reasons, why he should be entitled to her particular preference: however, in-

“stead of going to Oxford, we shall make
“them a visit to-morrow, when perhaps
“we shall be let a little more into the se-
“cret; at present let us retire, and consult
“our pillows, which are the wisest counsel-
“lors we can apply to.” At half an hour
after midnight she rose, lighted her taper,
as I did also, glad to have escaped, and we
all retired at the same moment.

Alexander waited to undress me, and
Trimbush had stretched himself out at full
length, on the foot of my bed. I took so
little notice of either, that a mixture of
surprize, pique, and uneasiness appeared
upon the countenance of Alexander, who
observed that he supposed their honors had
changed their minds, and he should be left
out of the detachment to be drafted for
Oxford. Instead of satisfying his doubts, I
told him he might go to bed, as I should
not want his attendance any more that
night.

I afflicted,

I afflicted, though I did not intend to afflict him ; he was very sure he said, with tears in his eyes, he should be sent back from Oxford, as he had been from Eton. I assured him he was mistaken ; then what could be the matter with me, was the next question, as if it was impossible I should have any other cause for vexation, than what originated in a prospect of a separation from himself.

I refused to satisfy his curiosity, retorting on him the secrets concerning me, which he had in his keeping, and which he never would divulge.

“ If I durst to have told them,” he replied, “ your honor should not have asked me twice, for dy’e see, they have been as near to my lips as gun-powder to the cartridge, and would many a time have blown up, if it had not been for my duty to God, and my superiors.”

This was a sort of compromise, that each should keep what he had to himself. To avoid therefore, his affectionately troublesome importunities, that I would go to rest, I submitted to the operation of undressing, took possession of my pillow, but bid adieu to rest till the image of Agnetta vanished from my mental view, with the clouds of night and sleep hovering over my eyes as she sat on the beams of the morning sealed them up so effectually, that it was passed mid-day before I opened them again, and again Agnetta was the first object that was present to my ideas. I have seen her—she hates me—she likes Harley. These were the thoughts that always attended the recollection of the Opera Scene. I had heard of love—I feared it, but was quite certain I had never felt it. How was it possible I should love Miss Godolphin, with whom I was so angry, that if it had not been unmanly, I could certainly have chastised her arrogance with masculine discipline?

The

The change in my looks when I came down to breakfast, seemed to alarm Sir Edward and Lady Eveline ; they were sure I had not slept, they were sure I was unwell, they hoped a certain young lady was not answerable for the alteration so visible in my countenance. “ If that should be the case, he is very much to blame,” said Sir Edward, “ he might have spoken in time, he knows our partiality for the Colonel and his family ; the young lady is amiable, her connexions honorable, her fortune unexceptionable, on what grounds, my dear Delves, could you have supposed we should have raised objections, to an alliance so every way desirable?”

“ I marry Agnetta !” cried I, forcing a laugh, and filling my mouth with boiling tea, that brought tears into my eyes. “ No Sir, if there was not another woman in the world, I would not be the husband of Miss Godolphin ! She forgets to love me as a sister, and she knows well enough the

“most I could ever feel for her, was the
“good will of a brother; and even from
“this slight degree of preference, I now
“declare myself totally disengaged.”

“I am glad,” she returned, “to hear
“you announce yourself so free from pain-
“ful impressions, as it puts me out of
“doubt, that the evening party to which
“we are all invited, will give you pleasure:
“had not your heart found itself in so per-
“fect a state of indifference, I should have
“been almost afraid to propose it.”

My face burnt like fire, as I asked where
and to what party, I should have the honor
of conducting her Ladyship.

“Pshaw,” said Mamma, “why all this
“begging the question; I think I have
“hinted very sufficiently, to make you
“comprehend, that our intended visit is to
“the family of whom we have been speak-
“ing.”

“I had

“ I had rather go to—to—to the play,”
stammered I out.

“ And we should most gladly have excused your attendance,” she replied, “ at the other place, rather than distress your feelings ; but if you have been honest, they are not likely to suffer any conflicts from beauties that are seen by you with so little partiality ; come confess you have deceived us, and stay at home, or go with us, and establish your sincerity.”

“ Then I go,” said I, “ though I should be carried thither in my coffin. Dear Madam, I will do any thing, rather than subject myself to a suspicion so degrading.”

“ Very well,” replied this dear teasing parent, “ now that I know all must be safe in that little kingdom, where I surmised a rebellion had commenced, there is nothing that remains to trouble me. I have

“ been engaged to make this visit on this
“ very night, rather more than three weeks;
“ we are invited it seems on a very parti-
“ cular occasion.”

“ Particular occasion!” repeated I, “ but
“ no matter—I beg your pardon, what time
“ must I be ready to attend your Lady-
“ ship?”

“ Eight, I think, is the hour at which we
“ are expected; have you any objection,
“ perhaps you may think it either too late,
“ or too early?”

“ Dear Lady Eveline, what can it be to
“ me, whether you chuse to command my
“ obedience at sun-rising, or sun-setting; I
“ live but to please Sir Edward and your-
“ self; love me always, and I renounce the
“ love of all other women upon the face of
“ the earth.”

“ I shall

“I shall grant your request, my beloved
“child, let us see if you will be as true to
“your promise.”

C H A P. IV.

Visit.

TO silence any further observations on the affairs of my incomprehensible heart, I appeared at dinner dressed to the best advantage, and with such gaiety of spirits, as might have been mistaken for intoxication, under which several very odd sensations were carefully concealed; I kept all the talk to myself, I overturned whatever came in my way, I spread a handkerchief on my knees, and put the napkin into my pocket.

“ I told you,” said Lady Eveline to Sir Edward, “ how much we have misjudged
“ the situation of his heart ; I have never
“ seen him look so well ; I have never seen
“ him so wonderfully lively ; let us never
“ again accuse him of harbouring inclina-
“ tions, with which he is afraid, or ashamed
“ to make us acquainted.”

I thought my little artifice had succeeded so well, that to give it fresh force, I drew out my watch twenty times, between the hours of seven and eight, as if impatient to give still stronger proofs of my indifference ; and when the carriage came to the door, which was to convey us to Colonel Godolphin's, I started up, assisted Mamma, to put on her cloak, and hurried her away as if I had liked as much as I hated the terrible visit, to which my ill-starr'd destiny was about to conduct me.

“ Delves,” cried Mamma, as I led her to the coach, “ you have certainly used too
“ much

“much exercise to-day, your hand trembles
“with the feebleness of old age.”

“That is very likely,” said I, “it is al-
“ways the case when I play too long at
“tennis, as I have done this morning.”

Well we are arrived—we are descended from our carriage—we are passing through a whole regiment of powdered footmen in new liveries—every room is illuminated with candles—every face with joy.—The door of an immense saloon, adorned with an infinity of light is thrown open—Lady Eveline is announced—Sir Edward is announced—and the agitated Delves is announced. Could he behold without tumults of agitation, the spectacle that met his confused sight? It was Lord Charles Harley sitting between Agnetta and another lady. Agnetta, the blushing Agnetta, in bridal white; it was that abominable Lord Charles, triumphing in the happiness of a bridegroom; it was a circle of splendid com-

pany, met to assist at the nuptials of Agnetta. It was the awful range of cushions which spoke the approaching ceremony ; it was the Archbishop's licence, exhibited against the hangings ; it was the Archbishop in person, dressed in his robes, and standing at a table, his face turned towards Agnetta, as if expecting her approach, his hand resting on a superb bible. It appeared that they only waited for our arrival, to begin the ceremony. I saw them all upon their feet, I saw no more, nobody observed me, nobody seemed to care what became of me, I ran out of the room, out of the house, and through the streets, till I gained my own apartment, where shutting myself up from all observation, I walked, wept, and raved until no longer able to do either I fell on the bed, and if it can be supposed possible, that a disappointed lover should ever sleep, I certainly did sleep, or should my readers of a particular description object to my falling asleep, I allow them to call it a suspension of the senses, from which I recovered,

I recovered, much refreshed, and a great deal more rational.

I could no longer doubt of the interest Agnetta had made in my affections, but with that desperate fortitude of the Spartan boy, I resolved to keep my secret though it should eat through my vitals.

Sir Edward and Lady Eveline came home at an early hour, and looked surprised at finding me waiting for them, in the drawing room, as composed, cheerful, and unconcerned as if nothing had happened.

They upbraided, and congratulated me in the same breath ; I had done wrong in leaving the assembly, before the rites were solemnized ; but they were rejoiced to find that it was not any sudden indisposition, which made me guilty of so much inconsiderate haste, in retiring before I had paid my compliments to Lady Charles Harley.

“ I acknow-

“ I acknowledge my fault,” said I, “ and
“ it depends on your goodnefs, whether I fhall
“ ever pardon the commiffion of it, for if
“ Delves is not forgiven by Sir Edward and
“ your Ladyfhip, Delves never will forgive
“ himfelf.”

“ Well, well,” answered Papa, “ where
“ there are fo many whimsical oddities, we
“ fhall not quarrel with you for one of fo
“ trifling a nature.”

“ Provided,” added Mamma, “ that he
“ tells us the real reafon of his defection.”

“ That is eafily enough explained, I hate
“ all fuch nonfenfical parade. The light
“ was too ftrong, the heat too oppreffive,
“ and the folemnity fo very awful, that if I
“ had ftaid, I might have taken an averfion
“ to the holy ftate of matrimony, for the
“ reft of my life.”

“ Pray

“ Pray did you give yourself the trouble
“ to look at the bride, before you abscond-
“ ed ?”

“ Yes, I caught one glimpse at her.”

“ Did you ever see any object more beau-
“ tifully interesting ?”

“ She is very well, but nothing extraor-
“ dinary, quite a baby, and I wonder her
“ father and mother can trust her with the
“ management of a family.”

“ True ; yet notwithstanding Agnetta is
“ young, I believe our wives of the present
“ times will have no bad example in Lady
“ Charles Harley.”

“ It may be so,” I replied, shrugging my
shoulders, with an air not less indifferent
than incredulous, “ yet if ever I marry I
“ should not like for my wife to become
“ her pupil.”

“ But

“ But Delves, you must carry your compliments to her, before you leave town; your old friends will never forgive you, if they are intirely neglected.”

“ Suppose then I should call to-morrow?”

“ You will do well.”

I did call on the morrow, and left my name for Lord Charles, Lady Charles, the Colonel, Mrs. Godolphin, and Henrietta, but did not ask to see any of them. My benefactors appeared fatisfied when I told them I went too early, that none of the family were visibible, and the next morning we set off for the Univerfity.

C H A P. V.

The Resolution.

NEVER will I set my foot, never cast my eyes again on this vile city, until I have obliterated Agnetta from my memory. Such was the resolution I formed as I turned my back upon London; to form and to establish a resolution was always to me one and the same thing. It required some address how to carry the point without betraying the motive; how should I ever see the parents I adored unless I returned to them at every vacation? after Christmas they were always in London. I might have prevailed on them, because

cause they never refused me any thing, to receive the spoilt child at Eveline Lodge; but what then? London stood in my way, and I must pass through it. I could not pass through it without in some degree revolting from my purpose. Nobody will expect such a concession from me; I did not impose it on myself.

Had there been a necessity of laying my heart open to the inspection of a friend, Mr. Darcy would have been my confessor. I should have felt less fear of offending him; less afraid of his strictures; less afraid of his raillery than of that which my filial duty would have taught me to expect, had Sir Edward and Lady Eveline been informed of my duplicity. However I was equally cut off from the advantage of council on either hand, for what I *would* not say to them, I *could* not communicate to Mr. Darcy, who some weeks prior to my present awkward predicament, at the particular request of ministers had left Britain.

tain on an Extraordinary Embassy, which himself assured me at parting, would occupy him at least twelve, if not eighteen months; or if he had remained on this side the water, it would have been in vain to unbosom my chagrin to him; for without changing my nature I never could have changed my discontent. Nothing would have made me acknowledge that the marriage of Agnetta was any concern of mine, much less that it had been the blight of my affections and the grave of my hopes.

Our short journey commenced, continued, and ended with universal good-humour; Sir Edward placidly chearful, Lady Eveline sometimes gay, sometimes thoughtful, whilst the vivacity of the tortured Delves knew no intermission, though more than once I felt my face flaming at certain glances from the mild eyes of Mamma, which seemed to say that she could read the contents of my heart; they were also fraught with compassion, at least I construed

strued their language into pity. My pride was hurt, and my efforts of artifice redoubled, to convince her ladyship how much I was the votary of indifference.

Sir Edward, on our arrival at Oxford, presented me to the Head of Wadham College, who gave me the most gracious reception. My rooms were already prepared; my name entered as Gentleman Commoner; my servant and my dog quartered in my neighbourhood; my tutor appointed; my acquaintance increasing; my chagrin decreasing. Such was my situation; when, after a week's sober festivity, made up of staring and stuffing, the most reluctant adieus were announced between Papa, Mamma, and their darling, they returned to London, and I commenced student.

My tutor was a good-natured man; I have known men without half his learning or polite manners, who have not been
good-

good-natured ; it is therefore that I notice in him a humble quality, with which over-bearing, self-created wisdom scorns to associate. He was the friend I most loved in the whole university.

Other acquaintances I contracted, who taught me no great matter of good, except to put in practice the lesson of charity given me by Mr. Darcy with a full purse, on my first setting out for Eton School. I had never forgotten his Christian charge ; but it had hitherto been attended with some trouble in finding objects enough to make receivers of his annual bounty. I had been forced in the pursuit of them, to make love to all the old ladies that came in my way, for proper recommendations ; until finding myself blazoned for the most wonderful virtues, I grew quite ashamed of so much public applause, and every year afterwards I delivered my purse of trust to the distribution of Winifred ; from which time I had the comfort of being let down to the
same

same level with the rest of my comrades. A throne of pre-eminence may be formed of roses, but he who sits upon it must lay his account with feeling the thorns, whilst he can only smell the flowers.

The difficulties I experienced in parting with Mr. Darcy's purse at Eton, did not follow me to Oxford. I wanted no longer to invoke the assistance of superannuated beauty, in the disposal of its contents; the aid of Winifred would have been superfluous. Had every mesh been a purse, and every purse contained a hundred guineas, I could have dispensed them all, to a certainty that my modesty would not be offended by praise itself, or the echo of praise. If the poor, the dispirited, the infirm, the oppressed were the objects Mr. Darcy meant to partake of his bounty, I every day met with distressed gentlemen by dozens, *poor* as the wretch who is just come from the interment of his last shilling,
dispirited

dispirited by a bad run of luck, *infirm* from vice, and *oppressed* by debts.

As long as the poor's fund lasted, the bills of my companions were sent to it for payment, and when all was gone, humanity forced me to raise another on my own firm, so that before I had been six months in the office of settling the affairs of others, my own suffered no little derangement ; in short, I was reduced to a state of as great poverty as the poorest of my gentlemen pensioners. Pride made me conceal the state of my finances ; the tradesmen were as well contented with my promise, as they had been with my money ; and I wrote to Sir Edward for a remittance proportioned to my wants, to my wishes, and to my inheritance.

The more I tried to separate myself from the idea of Lady Charles Harley, by running into parties of pleasure, and performing actions of what I supposed to be kindness,

ness, and therefore deserves to be called a spurious sort of benevolence, the more I was entangled in my own efforts. They led me into situations which at first produced repentance, a repetition of them mellowed repentance to a sort of uneasy consciousness that I was not exactly in the right path; which sensation very much evaporated at every new plunge I took in the ocean of pleasure; a consequence easily enough to be understood by all such as have refreshed themselves in the same poisonous whirlpool.

It was a considerable time before I received an answer to the demand I had made on Sir Edward. I was young in the school of disappointment, and grumbled over my first lesson; I became reserved to my tutor, surly to my companions, and to myself intolerably fretful; at length arrived such a one as restored me to thoughtless good-humour with all its concomitant extravagancies.

Sir

Sir Edward excused himself for having delayed so long sending me the needful, instead of upbraiding the imprudence which must have made it needful. He had been, he said, at the Isle of Wight, with a party of his friends, and was come back to town but a few hours. The party, who had stood in the way of my impatience, were doubtless no other than the Godolphins; perhaps too Lord Charles and his beautiful bride helped to compose it. My feelings at this surmise convinced me that it was not yet time to think of returning to London.

Lady Eveline had also written to me, but she, as well as Sir Edward, was silent on the subject, which, in defiance to the strongest resistance, always nestled next my heart; she asked when I intended to make them a visit, but did not command my attendance; on the contrary, she said as there would be a public act the next summer, I might use my own inclinations, for Sir Ed-

ward and she intended to be present, and should employ me to take a house for their reception, which for my sake they should certainly occupy at least one whole month.

I availed myself very handsomely of this permission, and returned such replies as could not but fully satisfy their hopes, their wishes, and their affections. In doing this I was guilty of no subterfuge; my studies I had never neglected, the progress I made in them covered me with honor; and my love for these revered parents was genuine, sincere, and fervent, as what the martyr feels for his religion. Besides, at the moment when I poured out the effusions of my heart on paper, I did really intend to model it after their own exemplary pattern; but, alas! what are the intentions of a youthful philosopher, or what the steadiness of juvenile wisdom?

My

My good tutor, who, with all his learning and piety could not penetrate into actions further than he could see them, found nothing to reprove in my conduct, but much to admire in my diligence. Indeed, the former was only reprehensible in those hours of leisure, which must have been filled with the image of another man's wife, if dissipation had not stood porter, and barred out its guilty entrance.

At the time when I suffered under all the torments of suspense to which Sir Edward's silence naturally gave birth, the change from cheerfulness to gloom, visible in the humour of his pupil, seemed to alarm the suspicion of my reverend Mentor, who omitted no means consistent with candour and politeness, to make himself master of my secret. A hundred times I was on the point of confessing, that I suffered from a sense of my past imprudence; and if I had followed the momentary impulse, it might have saved me no inconsiderable

degree of future shame and future vexation. The sentiment by which I was withheld from granting him the confidence he solicited, had no other mixture of fear in its composition, than that of being forced, by his arguments, to break the chain of amity by which I was bound to my present set of expensive associates; though to do them no more than justice, it would never have held *them* in friendship to *me*, if the links had not been forged of the strongest metal, even of the purest bullion.

C H A P. VI.

How to cure low Spirits.

FOLLIES, like misfortunes, tread on the heels of each other. My friends grew fat, my purse lean; my reputation as a dashing fellow, acquired new glory; my reputation as a rational being was not in its meridian; as one rose, the other fell. The remittance which ought to have lasted me several months, by some unaccountable management was gone in a few weeks. It seemed as if the gentlemanly distresses of my pensioners were always to increase with the increase of my finances. I liked to be entertained, and how was it possible they

should be able to administer to my entertainment, with a load of debts hanging on their spirits? a man might as well attempt to swim with a mill-stone tied round his neck. My money fled, and my companions recovered their vivacity.

There are in the world many worthy people, as well as myself, who having run their heads against a post, have wit enough to find out what made them stagger, will even caution others to take care and keep off from the danger, but forget that it is necessary to guide their own steps with additional discretion. It is not the warning, but the use we make of it, that can save the man.

I have hitherto made no mention of Alexander or Trimbush, since they attended me to College; the reason is obvious, it is impossible to be in the enjoyment of two opposite extremes, innocent and criminal amusements clash with each other. The

natural

natural simple endeavours of Alexander to please and serve me had lost their effect, I was reserved and he miserable. I have seen him shake his head, I have heard him sigh, yet never found him impertinent or troublesome; he wanted tranquillity, but he never wanted respect. The dear Trim-bush had none of those refinements, he seemed to feel my neglect with the contempt it deserved; and whenever I condescended to treat him with my usual familiarity, he gave me a most excellent lesson, had I been capable of improving by the dignity of his resentment; for instead of appearing honoured by my uncertain caresses, he would either growl or turn from me with disgust. Thus entirely through my own fault, was my first attachments nearly dissolved, when an accident occurred which restored us to our former mutual love, and mutual confidence.

My engagements to redeem others, involved me in so many debts, that without

owing a shilling on my own account, I was so followed by Duns wherever I went, that for the first time I felt myself disgraced by my band of gentlemen pensioners, and actually had the resolution to refuse one of them my name to a certain instrument, on which he assured me he had a friend who would lend him two hundred pounds.

"I am glad," said I laughing, "that you possess so valuable a friend; friendship cannot be friendship unless perfectly disinterested; try what he will do upon your own credit, for I frankly tell you I will not become your security."

"Not become my security?"

"No."

"Why what d——I possess you?"

"I am

I " I am influenced by no dæmon, but the
nt, " angel of self-preservation has taken me
if- " under her own guidance."

n- " Oh, curse her," he exclaimed, " she
e- " has never crossed my path. I scorn that
n- " necessity which touches only myself; I
d a " feel nothing but the necessities of those
ed " with whom I live in habits of inti-
" macy."

ou " But your shoulders are not broad
ip " enough to bear the burden of all their
if- " wants."

ur " Shew me a large fortune, and I will
ill " shew you how I should spend it. Poor
" devil as I am, if you wanted my hand for
" ten thousand, you should have it at the
" first word."

am " I would also have consented to your
" request at the first word," said I, " if I
" had not been determined, invincibly de-

“terminated, to refuse it at the end of a million.”

“Well, well,” cried he, “something I see has disturbed you, we’ll not fall out for the pitiful trifle of a skin of parchment, so there at present stays the business; but remember it is always ready to go on whenever you please. I would ask you to take your gun, and walk with me in the fields, but I see how it is with you, so adieu, till we meet you know where in the evening.”

Having got rid of this troublesome impudent fellow, I drew out the purse which contained all my worldly wealth, that all was only two guineas and a half. I had poured the three solitary pieces on the table. I sat contemplating them with a sort of frantic torture, they were the last of a hundred and fifty, transmitted to me five weeks before, by my generous Papa.—I cried out, wringing my hands, I am undone! I am ruined!

ruined ! I will die, rather than send for another supply !

In the agitation of my mind I did not perceive that I was speaking in the presence of a witness, till raising my head from my hand, and my eyes from the spare remains of affluence, I saw Alexander standing before me in a saluting attitude.

“ What do you stare at me for ? ” I asked in a tone so fierce, as might have made a stouter heart tremble, “ and how have you dared to intrude on the secrets of your master ? ”

“ If,” said he, with mingled sorrow, meekness, and firmness, “ forgetting my duty, I have stepped out of my rank to save my general, why d’ye see your honour, I know you may if you please, bring me to a Court Martial, but that is no matter, I would be shot to save your honour, by day or by night, in the field,

"or out of the field, although," added he, shedding some tears, and looking on me with reproachful tenderness, "your honour *is* no more like what your honour *was*, than a cart-horse is to be compared to a charger; and if I may be so bold as to speak my mind, I wish the greek, and the latin, and the caps, and the gowns, and the young gentlemen, that sponge upon your honour, were all carried off together in the devil's own knapsack."

His kindness, his honesty, and his energy was the death-stroke to all that was stoical in my nature. I jumped off my chair, would have cast my arms round his neck and solicited his pardon for the unfeeling neglect with which I had long treated him; but without waiting to receive my concessions, he ran out of the room. I called after him in vain to return, my heart smote me for the cruel indifference of which he appeared so sensible; it also misgave me, that I should see him no more; it was
a false

a false alarm, he came back in less than no time, with an old leather glove in his hand, from the bosom of which he poured a copious stream of hoarded wealth; some spun upon the table and rested there, others dropped down by his side on the floor, as he knelt at my feet embracing my knees, weeping, sobbing, and intreating that I would forgive his audacity, and make use of his savings.

I forced him to rise, begged his pardon for the pain my conduct must have occasioned him, pressed his hard hand between both of mine, vowed to restore him to my unlimited confidence, but positively refused to mend my own fortune by the destruction of his.

A warm contest ensued, which ended in a compromise that he should gather up his gold, return it to the glove, and carry it to his strong box, on which I promised to draw for such occasional supplies, as may
be

be necessary before I could ask with propriety for new ones from Sir Edward Eveline. Nothing but my having immediately consented to become the master of his whole stock of wealth in toto, could have given the honest creature greater joy, than the assurance that I would have recourse to it when needful.

“I see,” said he, “that your honour
“have not denied my boldness through
“pride, but generosity; I would be bound
“to receive five hundred lashes, if any
“one of the blood-sucking gentlemen,
“with whom your honour keeps com-
“pany, would have said as you do, “put
“up thy money Alexander, till I call
“for it.”

There was so much natural philosophy in this observation, that I laughed immoderately, desiring him not to make the experiment.

During

During the whole of the scene I have been repeating, Trimbusn snored by the fire side. I am apt to believe he shammed sleep, as I once did at Papa Owen's, that he might listen to the conversation passing between us. I farther fancied that he very much approved the just concessions I made to Alexander, and expected the same recantation on his own account: he first stretched, then raised, then shook himself, walked stately towards me, licked my hands, reared his paws up to my very throat, and in this attitude pronounced my pardon for all the offences of my late behaviour.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

I was a Turnpike Road.

HOW little does that reader know the disposition of man, who supposes when he sees his error, he has nothing to do but to mend it; if some such examples there are, I have only to say, I was not one of the number. I was not cured, I was only as well as could be expected; my reconciliation with the dear companions of my early travels, instead of shutting up my heart to others, threw every avenue to it quite open; it was a turnpike road without a gate, where asses as well as horses enter; unrestrained by enquiries, neither Wisdom
or

or his assistant old squinting Suspicion being in the way to ask questions; my former set of intimates were the first to gallop over the unguarded waste; I refrained from giving them money, because I had no money that I could call my own; I would not be bound for them, because I had no curiosity to visit the inside of a prison; but to accommodate them a little in the old stile, I casually run up a tavern score, paid for a few hats, a few wigs, a few waistcoats, a few pair of shoes, and a few pair of boots, at the expence of a few guineas borrowed from the purse of Alexander, who too happy that I would do him the honour to make the demand, was also too delicate to question me on whom I bestowed them.

Never shall I see a face so ugly, so thievish, as Alexander's; never shall I meet with a temper so beautiful, or an attachment so faithful, as Alexander's.

Gallantry

Gallantry was not numbered with my follies. I either thought too much of Lady Charles Harley, or too little of all other women, to give myself the trouble of improving their good inclinations, though constantly assured by the gownsmen, that I wanted nothing, only a little attention to their charms, and a little indulgence for their caprices, to confirm me in the favour of the whole sex.

I must here remind thee, gentle reader, whom I am striving to please, with all possible avidity, that when I forced my friend to leave me independent of new favors, he departed with these remarkable words—*so adieu till we meet you know where in the evening.*

Now this *you know where* visit happened to be one of those where a man of my turn is in greater danger of leaving his senses, than his heart behind him. The fair receiver of almost universal homage,
was

was a young, handsome, rich, prating, coxcombical widow; her affectation made me sick, her coquetry disgusted me, and the eternal click, click, click, of a tongue that never stood still, occasioned in my brain a sort of torment like what I have heard formerly belonged to the inquisition, where water drop by drop is administered through a hollow instrument, till the poor victim loses all recollection, but of his own torture. There were also some ladies handsome enough to be spoken of in any other assembly but in this, of very little significance, as not a man present, myself excepted, had eyes or ears, but for the enchanting widow; even this single acceptance did not turn out to the advantage of her neglected female visitors, who very innocently, dear creatures, amused themselves with a little chance game made up of winks, shrugs, and whispers, the materials for which were politely furnished by the widow for their rational recreation.

Observing

Observing that I alone stood aloof, impenetrable to the blandishments scattered about with noisy profusion on the cluster of fops surrounding her sofa, she beckoned me to approach, desiring a young fair-faced, discontented looking inanimate son of a noble duke to stand a little in the background, that Mr. Delves might come within the reach of her voice, having something to tell him of the very last importance.

The sun-flower of nobility retreated, and I advanced, winged with curiosity, but not with love.

“Do you know,” said she, “that I have lately been passing a few days very pleasantly in a certain neighbourhood, where I frequently met with some of your best friends, who spoke such flattering things of a gentleman that shall be nameless, as made me die with impatience to communicate them. I think he wants a spur to his vanity, and you may tell him from
“me,

"me, if the praises of a fine lady cannot
"excite a decent exertion, I shall positively
"have no hopes of his reformation."

"I am content to be your porter," said
I, "and to carry your message, when you
"give me a clear one, to the fortunate man,
"for whom you are so generously interest-
"ed."

"No, stay where you are," she replied,
"what a dunce! there is not another male
"animal in the creation, but must have un-
"derstood me."

"I beg your pardon Madam, I was
"thinking so much of your charms that
"your sense quite escaped my observa-
"tion."

"It is pretty well," cried she, "for a
"beginning, we shall make something of
"you at last. Well, but I can tell you a
"piece of news, if you have not heard it
"before ;

“before; your friends the Godolphins
“have had a large addition to their for-
“tunes.”

“I am glad of it.”

“Pray are you as cool to friendship, as
“I am told you are to love, that you speak
“of this event in a tone so little im-
“pafioned?”

“Who is there presuming enough to say
“I am insensible either to love or friend-
“ship?” I asked, turning my fiery eyes
upon half a dozen puppies at once, who I
knew had taken some liberties behind my
back, which they would not support face
to face; nobody answered my home ques-
tion, I uttered it with asperity, for to say
the truth, I was in a horrid humour at the
conversation started, and of which there
were so many witnesses; it was not what she
had said, but what she might say, which
kept me in boiling water, as if every spec-
tator

tator was endowed with penetration to look through my coat, waistcoat, my ribs, and my very heart, to see the little treasure I kept there, by stealth. I would have drawn off from my uneasy situation; it was impracticable, she held me to it in spite of my efforts to escape, as much to the evident dissatisfaction of her many admirers, as to the confusion of my own feelings.

“Why are you so disturbed, so impatient to run away,” said she, “before I have time to tell the thousand compliments I am fraught with, both from the Colonel, and Mrs. Godolphin?”

“They are very good to give themselves the trouble of asking after me, but my dear Madam, I have such a decided aversion to making compliments, that I am scarcely intitled to receive them.”

“Incorrigible creature!” retorted the gay widow, “your humility is downright affectation;

“affectation; but do you know I am quite
“in love with Lady Charles Harley, she too
“I think, was a Godolphin, I wonder you
“let her slip through your fingers; but then
“indeed you was so young, besides so grave,
“so sententious. No, no, she would not
“have done for you; when you get a wife,
“I foresee she must be taken from the race
“of Solomon’s good women, whose price
“is above rubies.”

I wonder you let her slip through your fingers—the blow was accidental, had it been premeditated it could not have made me feel more like a wretch, or look more like a fool; however my fortitude bore up against this attack, I was still master of my senses, and replied, “that in regard to the
“most beautiful part of the animated crea-
“tion, as well as the most valuable gems
“of nature’s production, in my opinion,
“no just estimation could be made, even
“from her quotation out of the Book of
“Wisdom itself; for if the value of women
“and

“and gems rose and fell together, the latter had fallen in price so low since the days of Solomon, that I might find more trouble than I should like to take in hunting after a wife of his description.”

To this she answered between jest and earnest, “that I was quite scurrilous, bidding me go and entertain the misses, who might probably like any sort of conversation better than being totally neglected.” I accepted my dismissal, but did not comply with the duty annexed to it; disgusted by one woman, out of humour with all, I left her assembly, went to a tavern, with the wicked design of drowning the lovely image of Lady Charles Harley, in bumpers of claret: the immersion was rapid, yet all would not do, her idea floated on my brain after it was turned topsy turvy, I carried it with me to my pillow, and all night long I dreamt of the divine Agnetta.

C H A P. VIII.

The Wish.

“ I WISH,” said I, as Alexander the next morning was helping me on with a coat just brought home from the taylor, “ I wish it was as easy to divest my mind of old habits, as it is to clothe my body with new ones.”

Alexander mounted his hand to the side of his head, and observed, “ it was a thousand pities my honour, with a heart so open, had not been trained to the army instead of being put to learn outlandish languages, with a parcel of hungry scholars.”

“lars, who would as soon take a dip at
“a man’s pocket, as look him in the
“face.”

I did not relish the observation, it favoured too much of truth respecting my own prodigality, and too much of obligation to the humble origin, from whence I was now reduced to draw my resources; I therefore remarked pettishly enough, “that
“I believed there were as many idle squan-
“derers amongst the military as at the uni-
“versity.”

He hoped he had given my honour no offence.

“Not in the least honest Alexander, but
“I—I—I am already very much indebted to
“you.”

“Then I am sure your honour is angry
“with me, or else d’ye see you would not
E 2 “besiege

"besiege my heart with words that are
"harder than bullets."

I looked in his face, his little ferret eyes trickled with tears, and his blackberry lips quivered with agitation. I caught hold of his hand, nothing could be more interesting to ourselves, than the moment of silence that ensued; I was the first to break it, "worthy good creature," I exclaimed,—
"I am ruined, but it is all my own
"fault."

"Blessings on my dear dear master for
"this kindness, don't be cast down your
"honour, spend freely, live merrily, and
"do as you like, d'ye see, you have still
"twenty guineas in store, and before they
"have beat a march, or half of them are
"drafted, fresh recruits will be coming in
"by fifties and by hundreds."

The last words still hung on his tongue, when my letters were brought in; he was a
soldier,

soldier, therefore an exact observer of etiquette, of course he withdrew and left me alone. The first seal I broke exposed to my view much paternal kindness, and a great deal of excellent advice from Sir Edward Eveline; the second contained all the delicate ardour of an affectionate mother, who counted the weeks and days that still divided us; the third, think whether it was joy or sorrow that overwhelmed me, at finding the third only the virgin envelope of a Bank Bill for Five Hundred Pounds. What a treasure was here! what a cry did I utter, how blest the hand which had moved from my breast a mountain of obligations, that smothered my pride, and wounded my honour. I called for Alexander, he instantly appeared, but did not receive the news of my good fortune with those expressions of surprise I supposed he would have done; immediately a thought occurred, and I charged him as he valued my friendship, or feared my displeasure, to tell me if he had ever, unknown to me,

made directly or indirectly any sort of application on my behalf to Sir Edward or Lady Eveline for money to supply my extravagance?

I waited in a sort of agony for his answer. Had he served me the trick I suspected, however well intended, I should have beheld it as treachery, I should have considered myself exposed, I should have gone mad with vexation. I repeated my question, there was no confusion in his countenance, he seemed to smile at my impetuosity, and to be pumping for some solemn asseveration, when out it came. "May I," said he, "never be at the head of a regiment of angels in heaven, with my Nan second in command, if I have at any time had the boldness to write concerning your honour's affairs, to their honours Sir Edward, or her Ladyship." "Nor to any of their servants?" I asked. "No, your honour, never in my life." "Well then," cried I, "there is no accounting
" how

“ how this blessed note came to my hands ;
“ the first use I shall make of it, will be to
“ free my mind from the incumbrance
“ of my own debts, as well as those I have
“ foolishly promised to pay for others.”

“ Foolishly !” repeated Alexander, “ I
“ love to hear your honour talk after that
“ manner, it is a sure sign that your ho-
“ nour is beginning to look about you,
“ d’ye see, and to reconnoitre the enemy’s
“ ground.”

I assured the faithful creature I should
intirely drop a class of acquaintance, from
whom I had gained nothing but losses,
and cultivate a new set with whom my
purse as well as my morals, would be in
greater security.

As I promised, so I performed, my debts
were easily arranged, except with Alexan-
der, who strove hard to keep himself my
creditor, and would not take back the a-

mount of his loan, on any other terms than that of being accountable to me, as my steward, for all his worldly possessions.

I said nothing of the change in my circumstances to any body, but having made myself master by purchase of the vouchers for which I stood engaged, I assembled together all those to whom they more properly belonged, and returning to every man his proportion of bills receipted, I thus addressed them, "Gentlemen, I am a young
"man like yourselves, dependent like yourselves, on friends who require prudence
"on our parts in recompence for liberality
"on theirs, let us mutually endeavour to
"discharge the duty we owe them. I hope
"you will agree with me, that those who
"have associated together in a system of
"squandering, would form but an ill appointed society in one of œconomy. I
"shall therefore recommend that you
"should all follow the example I mean
"to set you; let us henceforth seek for
"companions

“ companions amongst wiser men than ourselves, by whose conduct we may learn to reform our own.”

My advice was as little relished as I expected it would be; one called me a methodist teacher, another a comical dog, who shammed sobriety, as a foil to my wickedness; a third compared me to St. Paul, preaching at Athens, before a heathenish congregation; and the rascal to whom I refused my bond, strutting up to me as close as he could stand, presumed to give us a specimen of his wit, by swearing I was a d——d honest fellow, that he well enough knew my humour, as I did his, jesting was all fair, or he should have whispered me in a word of caution to soap my nose.

I coolly replied, “ however abrupt the warning, it should be kindly taken ;” at the same time laying hold of him by the two shoulders, I kicked him down several steps, bidding him wait there until I should

have performed the operation he had recommended. This audience of leave was comprehended in all its forms by the rest of the disappointed party, who under the pretence of different engagements, bid a hasty, but smiling adieu to their sturdy dupe, and we never any more associated together.

Having got rid of those devouring locusts, the bane of good order, the pest of wise men, and the destruction of fools, I made my selection of companions from another description of students, whose decent manners and regularity of living, made them very well spoken of; besides, they were most of them men of rank, and all men of fashion. Notwithstanding the many follies I had committed, none of them stuck by me to the prejudice of my reputation, so that it was always in my own power to form what intimacies I pleased. Alexander was delighted with my new friends, because they did not borrow my money,

money, and Trimbush fawned upon them, as much as to say, I thank you for keeping my master always in good humour.

Seven score bright guineas remained unbroken of the god-send, for which no man appeared to challenge my gratitude; it would have been enough, and more than enough, to have held out a siege against all my wants, until my next quarterly remittance came round, but though the drains on my purse were dried up, the channels to my heart were left open; and it is truth even to a proverb, that riches maketh themselves wings, yet nobody will dispute they had better fly abroad in the service of humanity, than stay at home waiting to serve the mammon of luxury, or even to hoard themselves up on the business of accumulation.

I never looked in the face of sorrow without trying to dig for the root of it in the heart, where I supposed it must be planted. Several times had I fixed my eyes on a

too young man of good appearance, who a few days before was entered as a ferviture in the same college with myself; his countenance indicated more than a gloomy mind, his features bore the very signature of despair; as often as he saw me viewing him with attention, he hastily turned from the scrutiny of my glances, and whenever we crossed each other, he would as anxiously avoid permitting me to accost him. I would fain speak to him, said I to myself, but dare not invade the privilege of woe. It is the wretch's relief to pass by unnoticed, whilst the favourites of fortune are bronzed by assurance to resist shame and court admiration.

I mentioned to Alexander my desire of knowing who he was, whence he came, and what was the cause of his impenetrable melancholy; he promised to assist me in the research, and at the end of three days he brought me the following intelligence.

C H A P.

C H A P. IX.

Natural Enough.

"I BELIEVE your honor," said Alexander, "the young scholar had a mind to make away with himself."

"Good God! why do you believe he harboured such horrible intentions?"

"I can't chuse but think it your honor, he would have gone to the bottom dy'e fee, before one could have cried Jack Robinson, if somebody had not jumped into the water, and pulled him out upon the bank, by the hair of his head."

"My

My flesh crept, and my blood ran cold,
I asked if he had made this dreadful attempt
with his cloaths on?

“ No master, he was too cunning dy’e
“ fee, to beat the drum upon a secret ex-
“ pedition. No, no, he stripped to the skin,
“ pretending to swim; minding what your
“ honour had said, I followed him from
“ place to place, but never could get at his
“ speech; at last finding he was gone to
“ walk at a certain place, I ran after him
“ hoping to have better luck, when nobody
“ saw us, but before I got up, he was
“ spread upon the water; several other
“ swimmers stood dressing on the green grass,
“ but took no more notice of what the
“ poor little parson was about, than a right
“ soldier would take of a trainband recruit;
“ presently the parson’s head pops under
“ dy’e fee, and staid so long, that fearing
“ he would never rise again; he did not
“ want help to drag him out, but the worst
“ thing I liked of him, was, that when he
“ came

“came to his senses, though the shivering
“soul was as thankful as thankful could
“be, contrary to the articles of war, he
“would not confess self-murder, but only
“that he was taken with the cramp, and
“that he should have died a natural death,
“if somebody had not jumped in to save
“him.”

“That somebody, was it not thyself
“honest Alexander?”

“It was, your honor, so if I have been a
“coward for not putting men to death in
“time of battle——”

“Thou hast been a hero,” cried I, inter-
rupting him, “in risking thy own life in
“the preservation of a fellow creature; this
“one action covers a thousand desertions
“from the standard of valour, and will
“henceforth enrol thy name on the fade-
“less list of honor.”

I was

I was more than ever anxious to see the unfortunate youth, and sent Alexander to desire an interview, either at his chambers, or my own. He would probably have refused my request, but it was made by his preserver, and he obeyed the summons, leaning on the arm of Alexander, who cheered him step by step, as he tottered towards me pale, trembling, and disconcerted beyond description.

Between us, we placed him on a chair; he was extremely faint, for many minutes his efforts to speak were all abortive; his only motion was that of lifting his hands and eyes to Heaven, now and then turning them on Alexander, with ineffable expressions of the tenderest gratitude.

I threw one of my arms round his neck, and drew his head to rest on my shoulder, whilst my assistant forced down his throat more than one glass of strong Maderia; the remedy succeeded, my patient recovered
his

his speech, and the life-blood again revisited the fallow visage, from whence it had been chased by a host of usurpers. He started from his seat, his knees smote each other, and in a voice that made me shudder, he cried out, "I will not be saved! A father imprisoned! A mother expiring! A sister dishonoured! I will not be saved!" and he threw himself on the floor writhing with agony.

If this was acting, art never represented nature to greater advantage. Well no matter, this excellent actor afterwards expelled himself from the University, having first relieved his father from prison, reanimated the departing spirit of his mother, and spliced together the honour of his sister, by giving her a good-natured husband who knew how to make allowances for the frailty of human nature. This was the tale he rehearsed at my feet, on returning from Henly, where he pretended the deplorables had lived, and whither with a hundred guineas

guineas in his pocket, I had sent him to accommodate his domestic affairs. Some time after, when his character became suspected, I dispatched Alexander, to enquire at Henly, for a family of the name of Colmer; but before he came back with the news, that no such people were known in that town, or its neighbourhood, the exquisite performer had withdrawn behind the scenes; that is to say, he had decamped, carrying with him in the true Isrealite fashion, all the goods he could borrow from his Egyptian neighbours.

As well as I can remember, this was the only act of folly, for which I was not respectfully reprehended by my faithful soldier. Alexander had been the dupe of hypocrisy, equally with his master; he could therefore only lament the consequences of the imposition, without advancing any accusation, in which he must have become a party; having consulted him before-hand,
and

and been honored with his fullest approbation.

One day, as I went to visit some of my new appointed friends, at a neighbouring College, two of them entitled to wear the gold tassels, had agreed to go with me on a fishing expedition; in passing through the quadrangle, we met in our path a little man of a very particular description, whose face I had never seen before. I think it worth while to give some idea of his figure, that the reader may be able to account for the extreme astonishment I experienced, at seeing my companions, who were not at all deficient in that sort of knowledge which belonged to their own importance, accosting this diminutive student, with the becoming humility of true apostolick christianity.

This least, but greatest of his species, bore an external appearance of nothing that should recommend him to the notice, much less to the homage of Fortune's favorites,

vorites, who generally sow their condescensions on prolific soils, from which abundant crops of benefits may be expected. He had nothing in his dress but plainness, amounting to singularity; nothing in his address but simplicity; nothing in his air but firmness, and nothing in his eyes but sweetness and candour; his linen indeed was white as snow, but he wore neither stock, or cravat, his hair was of the lightest brown, nicely combed, but without either curl, or powder; his waistcoat was opened for the admittance of as peircing a wind as ever blew in the month of April, the knees of his breeches had neither tie, or buckle, and those on his shoes, like Papa Owen's, were hardly bigger than a sixpence.

This extraordinary personage seemed much more inclined to avoid, than attract our observation, but my two friends stopped to pay him a compliment, on his return to College, which his natural politeness would not allow him to refuse; however,

ever, I observed that whilst he made his bows to them, his eyes were directed to me, not as if he had been merely examining my face, but rather as if determined to take a peep into my soul.

“Mr. H———” said one of those young nobility-sprigs, with whom I was all of a sudden hustled into a prodigious intimacy, “how comes it that every effort, every advance we can make to the honor of being numbered amongst your friends, are as constantly rejected on your part?” “Indeed,” rejoined the other, “from our rank and characters, we have seldom these sort of difficulties to encounter.”

The young man smiled, but only replied, “it was a fine morning,” and would have walked on.

“One word before you take yourself off,” said the most blustering of the two, colouring with resentment, “by G—d you must

“ must account to us, and in the presence
“ of this gentleman, for the continual dis-
“ like you evince to mix with us, in that
“ society to which we have but too often
“ condescended to invite you.”

“ I acknowledge gentlemen,” returned
the little scholar, “ all that respect which
“ can be due to your superior station ; is it
“ enough, have I now your permission to
“ depart ?”

“ It is not enough ; you must not depart
“ until as a man of honor, you account for
“ the rudeness, with which you treat us on
“ all occasions.” This was said by the cho-
lerick young Lord.

“ I do not know that man,” replied the
stranger, “ who can on all occasions ac-
“ count for his conduct.”

“ Neither will I sit down contented with
“ this tame philosophical apology.”

“ I never

"I never meant it as an apology."

"Then ask our pardon, or declare from whence springs your neglect; I had almost said your impertinent neglect of the honor we have done you."

C H A P. X.

Mysterious Defence

HE cast on them a look impregnated with more of celestial, than mortal condemnation; it was justice softened by compassion. "I have injured no man," said he, "therefore no man has a right to my humiliation; to that charge of refusing the honour your condescension would have forced upon me, I plead
"guilty;

“ guilty ; perhaps I may have strong reasons for my unambitious retiring ; perhaps these reasons are only fitted to the ear of privacy, and to the ear of one, or both of you, I am willing to reveal them.”

As he spoke, I observed their countenances, but saw nothing there which anger and mortification had not fabricated. I motioned to walk off at a distance, they made no attempt to detain me, only desired I would not go far, and they should have the pleasure of joining me immediately ; the stranger and I saluted each other very civilly, and I felt an unaccountable predilection in his favor.

Being out of sight and hearing, I stood still with my arms folded, to wait for my companions, to reflect over the extreme oddity of the scene I had witnessed, and I must confess with a great deal of curiosity to know how it had ended ; they came unto me,

me in less time than I could have supposed two sentences might have passed between the offended, and the offending parties ; but what surprised me more than any thing else, was to find no traces of passion on their features, which on the contrary, seemed enveloped in paleness and terror.

This alteration so strange, so visible, passed for nothing, their looks and words were entirely at variance ; I saw them ready to sink with confusion, I saw them also gayer than I had ever seen them before, and when I asked if they had brought the aggressor to a decent confession, they said “ yes, he had asked their pardon, and given some domestic reasons for his former behaviour as obliged them to be satisfied.”

“ He has done more than I expected,” said I carelessly, “ I did not think he would have asked your pardon at all ; he appeared to me like a sturdy oak, that no hurricane of the passions could shake, no

“furious storm of words bring down from
“its deep rooted pre-eminence.”

“Oh curse him,” cried Lord ——
“we soon brought him on his marrow-
“bones, when we had him to ourselves.”

“Why yes,” observed I, somewhat iron-
“ically, “the operation must have been
“performed in a hurry; it is a considerable
“conquest to be obtained, in rather less
“than a brace of minutes, against an an-
“tagonist seemingly so determined upon
“standing his own ground.”

“He only waited till your back was
“turned,” said the Honorable Mr. ——
“to make the concession we required; the
“fellow has pride, and did not chuse to
“expose himself before a stranger.”

“He seems a queer quiz,” said I, willing
to draw them on to talk more of this won-
derful little man, even against their incli-
nations,

nations, for I saw they were in haste to drop the subject, by several symptoms, such as drawing out their watches, &c. "He seems a queer quiz," said I, "of what country and of what College may he be?"

"He is a nobody," replied the Honorable ———.

"Yet for all that he must belong to some country, to some College, but perhaps you do not know gentlemen, you will allow me to express my admiration of your too great condescension to an object so mean, so contemptible, as this poor little simple scholar."

One of them answered to my observation that the fellow had raised himself a fame at the University, which however unmerited made an acquaintance with him a sort of fashionable rage, the contagion of which infected all degrees." The other observed with a face as white as frost, "that

“he thought the air too brisk for fishing,
“and that the better way would be to put
“off our amusement, until the weather
“should be more favourable;” for my part
I saw them both so much disconcerted, that
I was glad to get rid of them; they returned
to College, and I pursued my walk.

Directed merely by chance, the path I
struck into, bordered on the Great Road
leading to London, I was only divided from
it by a thick hedge, a beautiful meadow
having invited me to press with my feet
the violets and primroses, with which
her bosom was ornamented. I went plod-
ding along, thinking of a thousand things at
once; my mind resembled a statuary’s yard
filled with images, none of them perfect. I
reflected on my shattered finances, and
could not tell what to make out of them;
on the odd scene of which I had been a
spectator; I did not know which most
wanted mending, the little student, or the
great men; I thought of Sir Edward, of
Lady

Lady Eveline, they wanted no repairs ; I thought of Mr. Darcy, of the Godolphins, of somebody else, and last of all I quarrelled with my perverse stars, that would not let me forget *that* somebody else.

Such was the undescribable confusion of my reasoning faculties on the instant when my ears were assaulted by a shrill piercing cry which issued from the turn of the road ; the voice was evidently that of a female, and a female in distress ; though the days of chivalry are pretty well over, I had enough of the knight-errant in my constitution, to run with all my strength till I came to a part of the hedge, which at the small peril of my neck would barely admit of an attempt to clear the very deep ditch on the other side ; I suppose the leap I took must have been six yards, it was a flying one ; however, I passed over the tremendous gulph, with the speed and safety of a bird, and followed the sound which seemed every moment to approach nearer ;

I beheld at the turn of the road, a woman, a Sylph, or an Angel frantically running towards me, calling out for assistance ; I beheld a coach overturned ; I beheld a gentleman in a curricle, trying to govern two ungovernable horses, who had evidently taken fright at the fallen carriage ; my speed redoubled ; the lady's speed redoubled, she sunk down at my feet, she could not speak, she beckoned to the objects of her terror ; I rushed by the too dear, too lovely phantom ; it was the apparition of Lady Charles Harley.

C H A P. XI.

The Struggle.

IT was the apparition of that Agnetta whom I had loved from infancy, whom I still loved; whom at this moment of encounter, my heart informed me, I ever should love. It was that Agnetta from whose hand I received the precious garland, the defence of which drew on me the wrath of old Cicil, and eventually drove me into banishment; it was my own Agnetta. No, no, no; it was the Agnetta of Lord Charles Harley; my soul spurned at guilt, I ran from her with precipitance—I did more—

F 4

I saw

I saw it was her happy husband, whose life was about to be sacrificed to his want of skill, or want of strength, in the management of his riotous horses. I seized on their bridles, and backening them against the walls of a ruined cottage, stopped the madness of their career.

Agnetta in her fright had not discovered me, I wished not to be known; I therefore drew my hat over my eyes, and received the thanks and compliments of the whole party, without venturing to lift them once from the ground; the attendants had raised up the fallen carriage, which contained Colonel Godolphin, his wife, Henrietta, and the lady I remembered to have seen at that cruel ceremony which parted me for ever from the idol of my adoration.

Finding no damage had been sustained, I felt impatient to be off, and casting one parting, but imperceptible glance from the corner of my eye on the dear Agnetta,
who

who had ran into the arms of her father, I wished them a good morning in a feigned voice, and in spite of their efforts to detain me soon lost sight of my friends, but not of my torments.

Where can they be going?—It was the first question I asked of myself, and it was answered with a sigh that perhaps they were on a party to Oxford. That will never do, said I, and walked on; in the present struggle between honor and inclination, between prudence and passion, I would have risked every thing to ensure the conquest of the two former. They will probably not take up longer than two days in visiting the University. I will spend these two days at Henly, I would not see her again for—I put my hand in my pocket—I had four guineas, it was enough. But how would my absence at College be accounted for? No matter, I must not go back—Alexander would be frightened out of his senses, nor was it unlikely he would write to Sir

Edward to alarm him, and my gentle Mamma, with vague accounts of my absence. This consequence must be avoided, so walking forward till I came to a little farm-house which furnished me with implements for writing, I took a labourer out of the field, and by him dispatched the following billet to Alexander.

“ I am induced to make a short ramble
“ from College, take care of yourself and
“ Trimbush, you will see me again in two
“ or three days at farthest.”

It would not have been amiss, had I sent an apology to my Tutor, at the same time that I conveyed this information to my servant; but it was a ceremony which never entered my head, until I read in the gravity of his countenance when I waited on him at my return, that I ought to have considered such a compliment not merely as a matter of form, but an indispensable duty; however he was too much my
friend

friend to be long or violently angry, or to let the College censure, to which by my conduct I had exposed myself, fall very heavily on my transgressions. A short lecture, a short imposition, and all was well, my fault was forgotten.

Afraid of treading too closely on the heels of the Godolphins, I came not back to College until the fourth day of my departure from it, nor did I enter it then, staring in the broad face of Phebus, but sculked to chambers, wrapped up in the mantle of darkness. My first question to Alexander was, if any body had enquired for me since I left Oxford? my second, were there any letters for me?

"Yes," he replied, "there have been some old friends, that would have been glad to have seen your honor, and I am sure your honor would have been as glad to have seen Colonel Godolphin, and the detachment under his command, but you

" was on your march, as I told them to
" fresh quarters ; they seemed as sorry your
" honor, as a General after a defeat."

" And of what force did his detachment
" consist?"

" Why your honor, of all the regimental
" ladies."

" Thou meanest the ladies of his fa-
" mily?"

" Certainly your honor."

" Were they also disappointed, that I
" was not here to receive them?"

" Oh, very much indeed your honor.
" Lady Harley said she should have liked
" to have seen you of all things."

" Pshaw ! Lady Charles Harley, you
" should have called her." I felt myself
growing

growing peevish, but never having made Alexander the confidant of my secret, I checked the fit, and asked him how long they staid in Oxford, when they went away, and where they were going to? They had only staid one night he said, but he did not know by what route they shaped their march. I then repeated my question, had any letters arrived in my absence? he answered by putting one into my hand, the reading of which cost me a great deal of confusion. These were the contents :

L E T T E R.

“ MY DEAR DELVES,

“ Not many days ago, I sent you a bank
“ bill of five hundred pounds, I did not
“ intend you should know from what quar-
“ ter it came; I preserved this silence, to
“ save you the trouble of making those
“ acknowledgements of which I am con-
“ vinced your grateful heart would have
“ been

“ been susceptible; however I have changed
“ my plan, to give you a still greater proof
“ of my friendship, by putting it in your
“ power to make me your creditor for
“ three hundred pounds of my late gift, let
“ me receive it by an early post; the oc-
“ casion I have for it is pressing, and the
“ return of it shall be punctually made
“ long before a young man of your pru-
“ dence can have disposed of the other two
“ hundred; a very honest banker is hard
“ run by his foes, and his friends are de-
“ termined to support him with all the
“ cash they can muster; it is to the fortu-
“ nate circumstance of my being numbered
“ with the latter, to which you are indebt-
“ ed for the gratification of bestowing,
“ which at all times has been allowed
“ greater luxury than receiving benefits;
“ and I feel a presentiment that the power
“ with which I invest you of obliging me
“ by serving my friend, will be dearer to
“ you than any pecuniary favor you have
“ ever yet experienced from the love and
“ indulgence

“indulgence of your paternally affectionate
“nate

EDWARD EVELINE.”

CHAP. XII.

A Visitor.

OH reader, if thy heart was ever moved for the distress of an imprudent, penitent squanderer, who has a better right to thy pity, than the hero of these sheets? Had my purse been heavy, my conscience might have been light, but at this moment of time when I would have purchased three hundred pounds at any price below that of perdition, my whole possessions amounted to no more than Twenty-five Guineas, Ten Shillings, and Sixpence. I was standing
on

on the sandy brink of a precipice, no kind hand appeared, turn my head which way I would, to give me a pull backwards, and in falling from the favour of a father who had never acknowledged me for his son, except by his actions, was such a tremendous shock as must inevitably crush me to atoms. I saw my danger, but no means to prevent or even protract it, my head grew giddy, the letter fell from my hand, my cheeks flushed with shame, and my eyes filled with tears. "It is all over with me," I exclaimed, stamping up and down the room in one of my usual fits of violence, "it is all over with me," and stumbling over Trimbush, I measured my length on the floor.

The noise of my fall brought back Alexander, who according to custom was gone outside the door whilst I was reading what had reduced me almost to a state of madness. Lovers may say what they will, I have been a lover, a despairing lover, but the agonies imputed

imputed to Cupid, are ease to those inflicted by Conscience.

I was on my feet before Alexander could enter, I was on the point to tell him what had befallen me, already I had fixed my hands on his two shoulders, I had fixed my staring eyes on his fallow countenance, with such fiery glances as turned his paleness to the colour of aurora; I had done every thing but articulate to convince him of the terrible dilemma, into which my extravagance had plunged me, when a gentle knock at the door of my anti-room broke off the intended explanation. Good God at such a moment as this, to be intruded on! any of my new set of acquaintance would have been odious, I should have cursed their civility, but had one of my old ones, to whom I owed the force of my present calamity have dared to stand before me, I should not have been able to answer for the effects of my own rashness.

Alexander

Alexander seemed glad to escape from my hard grasp, and hastily ran to perform his office of porter. It was my worthy tutor whom he admitted. I was forced to rally my scattered spirits, and to give him the best reception that I could, and to defend myself in the best manner I was able, for my indecorous straying from college, but having already said how gentle a penance was inflicted for this misdemeanor, none will be cruel enough to desire I should dwell on a subject so little redounding to my credit, or if he expects such a sacrifice, he will find himself mistaken.

“ I have a few friends who dine with me “tomorrow,” said my wife and affable tutor, as he wished me a good night, “ will “ you join our party ? ” It was impossible to refuse a request, which I considered as a command, and I saw him depart, without seeming to have penetrated through the cloak of confusion that enveloped my senses

senses during the whole time his visit lasted.

The moment I was alone, calling for Alexander, I related to him with incoherence amounting to insanity, the dreadful condition I was plunged into by Sir Edward's demand of Three Hundred Pounds by way of loan, out of his last liberal supply, vehemently exclaiming, "I would die a thousand deaths rather than give him cause to suspect me of ingratitude ; I dare not expose my extravagance, on every side destruction stares me in the face."

Alexander tried to comfort me by a number of military phrases, that so far from asswaging my anguish, added the fuel of impatience to the flaming passions of self-accusation, I bid him be silent, or say something to the purpose.

Although he had once deserted from the standard of courage, in the service of humanity,

manity, Alexander was a faithful soldier. I believe he thought I meant to do myself a personal mischief, for in the agony of my mind, I had struck my forehead with no small force. He fell at my feet, assured me if I would be composed and give him a short furlough, he was pretty certain he should be able to bring me back the money I wanted.

The improbability of this proposition made me smile, but it was neither the child of hope or the offspring of joy, it was a sensation of despair, that expired in the moment of its birth, and I demanded what would be his plan of proceeding.

“Why you must know, your honour,” said he, starting on his legs, and standing as erect as a spike, “whilst you was at Eton, I happened to do a kindness to one of your money-lending gentlemen in London, who though called a Jew, told me in a christian-like manner, that if I
“wanted

“ wanted at any time, though it should be
“ Five Hundred Pounds, I might come to
“ him, and he would let me have it.”

I enquired what great service he had rendered this Jew, which could have made him so liberal of his professions; he said he had the good fortune to save one of his children from being run over by a carriage in the street.

“ Did he give you nothing at the time
“ when the accident had like to have hap-
“ pened ?” I asked.

“ No your honour, but he promised
“ faithfully, and if you will let me go af-
“ ter the money, I will be bound to bring
“ it to you.”

I gave my consent, he immediately set out on the strength of it, nevertheless so little hope did I build on the experiment, that sometimes up, sometimes in bed, the night
I passed

I passed was one of the most turbulent fort I ever remember to have experienced.

At six o'clock in the morning I left my uneasy pillow, which appeared to be stuffed with thorns; disordered both in body and mind, I ran out upon the downs, where I walked to and fro, a deck's length with the phrenzical haste of a disturbed imagination, full of undigested expedients how to avoid the misfortune that threatened me, without one grain of probability being mixed in their composition. The success of Alexander with his Jew friend, afforded me just as much relief as a man may be supposed to find on being told whilst under the shivering fit of an ague, how warm and comfortably the sun is shining; but had his plan of getting money been built on a better foundation, my tortures would have felt no great matter of abatement. I well knew the punctuality of Sir Edward, and that my omission of a single post would as effectually

fectually displease him, as if I should never have it in my power to comply with his requisition.

During the paroxysm of my fevered reflections on the melancholy condition of my circumstances, occupied by one idea, and occupying one spot, I was observed at a distance by the little student who had interested my curiosity and confounded my two honourable companions on the morning I made my sudden retreat from the infatuating charms of forbidden beauty. We stood staring at each other; I like a fury, my cap lying on the ground, where I had tossed it in a frolick of passion, and my hair standing erect; he shedding the mild rays of compassion from eyes beaming with more than mortal philanthropy.—He advances towards me, I stand still, undetermined whether to approach, or retreat, whether to ask his friendship, or quarrel with him for his intrusion; before I felt decided on the question, he had stooped

stooped to pick up my cap, which he presented to me in silence, yet with a certain expression of countenance, as if he had said, I pity you for your misfortunes, but I condemn the little fortitude with which you are capable of sustaining them. I thanked him for his civility, he wished me a good morning, and passed on. More awakened to a sense of my unmanly weakness, by a single look from him, than I should have been by an hour's lecture from the lips of any other man, I went back to college, resolved to wait the return of Alexander, with greater composure, or at least with a greater appearance of it.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIII.

A real Character.

NOTHING could so much militate against the steadiness of my last resolve, as any longer to keep company with my own thoughts, I therefore called in the aid of my hair dresser, who as he was making me ready for the dinner party, entertained me with all the politics, all the news, and all the scandal of the day. I tried to interest myself in the various anecdotes succinctly related by this knight of the powder-puff, but the attempt was vain, I grew tired of his nonsense, and asked if he knew Mr. H—— of P—— College?

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By

By this question I gave him a patent for declamation, which he immediately set about using, with an avidity that shewed he knew the value of his acquisition.

He assured me, the gentleman about whom I enquired, was as well known at the university, as the statutes themselves, and he supposed I must be much better informed than he could possibly be of his deep learning.

“No, I had never heard of him, and had only seen him twice by accident.”

“It is likely enough,” he replied, “he comes but seldom to Oxford, we have not seen him here, only since the last week, for several months, and no wonder that he should not stay long in one place, because being a great magician his company is very much sought after.”

“A magician,” cried I, laughing.

“Yes,

" Yes, indeed Sir, I tell you nothing
" but the truth, I dress a great number
" of gentlemen, who say he must deal in
" the black art, because he can tell not
" only what they do, but what they think;
" you must know sir, it was no more
" than five days ago when, as I was dressing
" Lord —, the Honourable Mr. —
" came in; they sent me a little on one side
" whilst they were speaking together, but I
" am particularly quick of hearing, so I lis-
" tened to what they were talking about."

The names mentioned by the frizure be-
ing those of the two students who had
accosted Mr. H—, in my presence, I
gave him no interruption, but encourag-
ed him to proceed by fixing my eyes on
his face, with that sort of expression, which
signified how much I was delighted with
his communications. " Well," said I, " so
" you over-heard what they said, and Mr.
" H— I suppose was the subject?"

“ Yes fir,” he replied, “ they declared
“ he must be the devil or a conjuror, they
“ cursed him very heartily, and called them-
“ selves blockheads, for trying to engage
“ his notice, or to make him explain why
“ he avoided their advances; then they whif-
“ pered so very softly that I could only find
“ out, all their anger was owing to some
“ secret concerning themselves, which Mr.
“ H—— by his great learning had disco-
“ vered, and my lord said, none but the
“ devil could have told him; so fir, you
“ see,” said the fellow, “ I have pretty
“ good authority for calling the gentleman
“ a magician; besides fir, if I had not fi-
“ nished your hair, I could tell you a great
“ many other wonderful stories which my
“ customers of the first rank, have either
“ told me themselves, or spoke before me
“ to one another.”

From preceding circumstances, my hair-
dresser's intelligence made some impression
on me, and I went an hour earlier than
there

there was occasion for, to my tutor's chambers, with the hope that he would more fully gratify my curiosity, and teach me what opinion I ought to form of a character that seemed to abound with singularity; the good man was flattered by my early visit, and when I signified the real motive for preceding his other expected friends, this was his answer.

"I desire nothing in the world, so much as to see you united in bonds of the closest amity with Mr. H——, of P—— College, and it is to bring you together, that I have invited you to dine with me."

"And do you also my dear sir, expect this gentleman to make one of your party?"

"Yes," he replied, "and I esteem it more honour to receive him under my

“roof, than I should feel in entertaining
“the whole bench of bishops.”

“It must be confessed,” said I, “that from
“what I have seen and heard of Mr. H——
“my curiosity becomes troublesome.”

“What have you seen, and what have
“you heard?” asked my tutor, whose name
was Stanmore.

“A very little man,” I answered laugh-
ing, “and a great many improbabilities.”

“I thought as much,” said he, “for there
“are strange ridiculous stories in circula-
“tion, and every description of men confi-
“der this extraordinary character, in a very
“different light; by pretenders to science
“it is envied, of course calumniated; by
“fools it is misread and misrepresented; it
“is indeed hard to understand, but when
“understood it is impossible not to be daz-
“zled with its effulgent brightness.”

“I dare

"I dare not flatter myself," cried I, "that I shall ever be received into his friendship, I have so many faults, so many imperfections."

"The modesty of this opinion will be your best recommendation," he replied, "but before he gives you his confidence, he will take the measure of your countenance."

"He has done that already," said I, and immediately recounted our first accidental meeting.

"I can tell you one thing," replied my tutor, "that however well disposed he might be to you, he feels little preference for the two students who happened to be your companions, on the morning when you first saw each other; they bear good characters at college, but H—— looks deeper than the surface."

I then repeated to him my own observations on their efforts to attract his notice, and the pains he took to parry them.

“Perhaps,” said my tutor, “there are few
“young men whose pretensions to birth are
“moderate as his own, but would grasp
“at the homage that is daily offered to his
“wonderful talents; the reason why he never
“will be any respecter of persons is,
“that he does not find his home in this
“world, but walks quietly through it, examining
“the merits, rather than the brilliant
“accommodations of his fellow travellers;
“a prince has no greater advantage
“with him than a beggar, he will examine
“the face of one with as much penetration,
“as much impartiality, as the other, and
“where he bestows his approbation, there
“his respect follows.”

“I suppose he is a pupil of Lavater’s.”

“No,

"No, he is an original," replied Mr. Stanmore, "of which we must never expect to behold a copy; Lavater read the human heart systematically, he reads it, as if by inspiration."

"I wish sir, you may not rob me of all my ease," said I, "just as I am about to appear in the presence of this diviner, I am so conscious of my own folly that the pleasure you propose for me may eventually turn to my mortification, should I excite his contempt, instead of his approbation."

"Fear nothing on that score," he replied, "he has spoken of you, he wishes to be numbered with your friends, it is at his own request I bring you together, and you cannot be too vain of a compliment perhaps the first of the sort he has ever paid to any man living."

Good God! thought I, what a pretty collection of errors, what a mess of confusion will this scholar find if he should really be able to read the contents of my mind in its present situation, and again I almost wished myself at my old trade of hen whipping, rather than undergo the scrutiny of his examination,—shall I run for it,—shall I plead sudden indisposition as an excuse for breaking my engagement,—no, that would have been cowardice in the extreme; and I had just made up my mind to stay where I was, when some of the expected company arrived, one of which was the respectable head of a college.

“I have been,” said this gentleman,
“walking more than an hour with H—,
“and the more I know of him the more
“he surprises me. Nature has constructed
“him for the greatest attainments.”

C H A P. XIV.

Interruption.

SOMETHING, but what more he would have added, must remain in doubt, for the appearance of the little man himself, put the rest of his speech to flight ; I was presented to him in form, and he gave me his hand with humility, so unassuming, with a smile so gracious as dissipated the blood which had flown to my cheeks, and by restoring my composure, fitted me for the enjoyment of society.

I considered myself of this society a silent member, devoting my whole atten-

tion to the conversation of others, and had wisdom enough of my own to discover that the genius of my new acquaintance, was manly, vigorous, and of most astonishing powers, untinctured by the pride of superiority, or the insolence of triumph ; he was not forward to speak, yet when he did speak, there could be but one wish amongst his hearers, it was that he would never cease to speak.

Mr. Stanmore frequently looked towards me, with an air of exultation, but he always found me with my eyes so intently fixed on the magnet of general admiration, that I had no leisure to send him one grateful glance in return for the great delight and instruction he had prepared for me ; I felt dissatisfied, when any of the company took a lead in the conversation, until I perceived that their only intention was to betray Mr. H—— into new subjects that he might with the greater advantage display his almost supernatural knowledge.

The

The topicks on which he was drawn out to enlarge the most were metaphysics, divinity, morality, chymistry, and medicine, on every one of which, he spoke more like a man inspired, than a mere scholar; I felt myself wiser and better for every sentence he uttered, and from that day entertained a love for his person, a reverence for his opinions, and an admiration for his virtues, extremely profitable to my own future conduct; as long as he lived he was the oracle by which I shaped my actions, and now that his enlightened soul is returned to the world of spirits, I raise in my heart to his memory a monument of gratitude, which death itself will be only able to deface.

* * * * *

I thought the party broke up much too early, I pressed the hand of my tutor on taking leave, and thanked him for the treat he had given me, in a manner that must convince him how much I was satisfied with

with his choice of a friend. "I would not," said I, "have lost the advantage you have procured me, for a thousand pounds." I spoke as I felt, without reference to my necessities; Sir Edward's demand, my inability to answer it, the forlorn hope undertaken by Alexander, all my late troubles had lulled themselves to rest on the bosom of attention.

The partiality I conceived for my new friend, appeared to be mutual on his part, and being about to separate, I proposed we should spend an hour together in my chambers; he readily assented, but some how or other, the hour was lengthened eight times beyond its ordinary limits, and yet so far was I from perceiving its growth, that it would have escaped my observation, if, as he arose to go away, I had not upbraided him with leaving me too soon; my complaint drew him to a window, when opening one of the shutters, I saw with astonishment the dawn of morning.

It

It may be a question of curiosity, to ask what could induce two young men to sit a whole night, poring over one single pint of Madeira, rather than pass it in bed, or at a tavern? I shall answer to this question, that in the eight hours we passed together, a volume of knowledge was opened to my inspection, from which I extracted more spiritual and temporal wisdom, than I had ever been able to attain from men or books, in the whole course of my studies.

He inspired me with confidence, which entirely conquered my natural reserve; I even spoke to him of Agnetta, of that affection which I had unconsciously imbibed for her since our earliest infancy, of her being the wife of Lord Charles Harley, and of the struggles it had cost me, to preserve my own honour, by running away from temptation, adding with vehemence, that whilst I had my senses, I would fly to the extremity of the globe, rather than meet the object of a rooted passion, which could never
now

now be gratified, but at the expence of innocence.

“Very well,” said he, “these are the
“sentiments I expected from you ; there is
“some merit in being an honest man ; but
“if I had thought you a knave, I should
“not have courted your acquaintance.”

“I wish you would tell me,” replied I,
“what it was you said to my two compa-
“nions, the first time I had the good for-
“tune to meet you.”

He smiled; “it is no matter what I
“said to them, the consequence of our
“short conversation, will produce me this
“good, I shall be no more troubled with
“their solicitations.” I saw him disinclined
to pursue the subject, and the wonders of
knowledge he had already displayed in the
early part of the evening, mingled my ad-
miration of his sublime genius, with a re-
verence so profound, that I durst not im-
portune

portune him for one word more than he chose to utter. Again the course of our conversation was turned back into the channel, from which my curiosity had diverted it; he told me I had nothing to regret on the score of Lady Charles Harley not being my wife, that we were never intended for each other, and that the love I expressed for her, was a shadow ingendered by fancy.

I would have convinced him to the contrary, by a thousand proofs of its solidity, but he stopped me, saying it was time we should separate. I would have detained him longer, the hours I had passed in his society appeared but as moments; he convinced me of my error by shewing me it was broad day-light, and no sooner was he gone, than retiring to bed, I fell into a train of reflections, which produced the keenest sensations, both of pleasure and pain; these were alike enemies to repose, so that I arose in the morning sleepless and unrefreshed;

unrefreshed ; as I do not know how to describe the sensations of my mind, during the thirty-six hours since the departure of Alexander, I shall make no attempt of the sort, but pass on to that of the day, when he had told me, I might expect his return to College, but as he did not appear, I proceeded to the chambers of my all-sufficient adviser, and after telling him the disappointment, occasioned by the delay of my servant, which would prevent me from writing to Sir Edward by that day's post, I asked him to give me counsel, what I should do in this dreadful dilemma.

"Why do you want any other counsel-
"lor than your own principle?" said he.

"Because," returned I, "of all man-
"kind, I am the most improper to be trust-
"ed with my own conduct."

"You are apprehensive of having dis-
"pleased your benefactor?"

"Yes,

“ Yes, my imprudence must have excited
“ his resentment.”

“ Then why not make your confession to
“ himself?”

“ Dare I do so?”

“ Dare you refuse your confidence to
“ him whom you suppose to be your fa-
“ ther, yet give it to a stranger?”

“ Good God,” cried I, “ say no more, I
“ feel the full force of your argument, let
“ me at least have the credit of an apt
“ scholar, I will immediately write to Sir
“ Edward.”

“ Do so, here are pen, ink, and paper,
“ they cannot be employed to a better pur-
“ pose.” I sat down and produced the
following epistle:

LETTER.

L E T T E R.

“ In the bitterness of self-reproach, the
“ prodigal Delves veiled in remorse and
“ confusion, confesses that he is unworthy
“ the infinite goodness, the unbounded af-
“ fection, the inexhaustible generosity of
“ his preserver, his benefactor, his father.
“ Oh my dear father, why have you—why
“ has Lady Eveline—why has Mr. Darcy
“ treated my faults with so much indul-
“ gence?—why intrusted me with powers,
“ to work out my own destruction? I have
“ not deserved those indulgences, those li-
“ beralities—had you been more austere—
“ had you been less liberal, fear might have
“ kept me prudent—necessity have made
“ me an œconomist, I now appear before
“ you in the despicable character of a
“ squanderer; in preference to that of for-
“ did disobedience or hypocritical excuses
“ if

“ if any thing can be said in palliation of
“ my horrid extravagance, yourself, Lady
“ Eveline, and Mr. Darcy, when he is told
“ the extent of my offences, will point out
“ where they can possibly allow of mitiga-
“ tion ; should I dare advance a word to
“ exculpate my conduct from intentional,
“ or actual criminality, it would be adding
“ the sin of presumption to the heavy
“ weight of my transgressions, and a still
“ more weighty link to that chain of re-
“ pentance, which will hold my heart in
“ bondage until my sentence shall be pro-
“ nounced by those whose goodness have
“ entitled them to mark with happiness or
“ misery, the fate of a guilty, but penitent
“ culprit.”

When I had concluded my letter, I shewed it to H—— for his approbation, observing that perhaps I had not said enough.

“ I don't know,” he replied, “ how that
“ may be, but if the seat of mercy cannot
“ be

“ be reached by a dozen such lines as these,
“ neither would a thousand be able to fa-
“ thom it.”

C H A P. XV.

What Delves did not expect.

MY mind seemed eased of a considerable burthen, in consequence of having made my confession to Sir Edward ; I was not without hope that it would procure me his pardon, at least I should have nothing to answer for, on the score of duplicity, and under the influence of those comparatively tranquillized reflections, I returned home, first dropping my letter at the post office.

As

As I entered the College gates, and was passing to my chambers, I found myself respectfully accosted by a servant in the Eveline livery, who asked if I would have the goodness to direct him to the lodgings of Mr. Delves. My face burnt at the question, I bade him follow me, my courage revolted, I grew sick, blind, almost speechless with apprehension; I could only articulate, as I shut the door of my anti-room, "Now speak, what is your message from "Sir Edward Eveline?"

"Are you Sir, Mr. Delves, for the dispatches I have the honour to be charged with, must be delivered into the hands of that gentleman."

"Produce them," I cried impatiently, "I am he, give them to me immediately." He took out a pocket book from whence he drew a letter which I snatched rather than received from his hand, and ordered him to return in an hour, by which time I should get my answer ready.

I made

I made no great haste to satisfy the emotions of curiosity, those of fear were so much stronger. I felt that I held in my trembling grasp, a formal dismissal from the confidence and affection of every dear friend my soul was attached to. It was like being forced to read the death-warrant of all my hopes, all my expectations; but the seal must be broken—It is done—the sight of several bank-notes, with the words “I am sorry,” convey horror to my agitated senses; I cast them all to the ground. I exclaimed, “no, cruel father, if I must be a vagabond, I scorn to burden my fate with the bounty of charity; my honesty, my poverty, and my gratitude, shall be the only companions of my banishment.”

As I uttered these rhapsodies of excruciating passion, the voice of Trimbush, singing *te deum*, roused my attention; I lifted my eyes from the ground, and cast them on my poor Alexander, whose appearance at this critical moment of excruciating distress, had

had in it something so like comfort, that throwing myself on his neck, I held him as fast as I should have done, if sure he had been a messenger from Heaven, on an errand of mercy ; I could only say in a low voice, which the loud cries of joy from the extended jaws of Trim bush effectually overcame, " Alexander I am undone !"

Alexander withdrew from my arms, retired a few steps with one hand, putting by Trim bush with the other, saluting me in the old stile, but with more than common respect.

" One skirmish your honour," said he, " does not lose a battle, but how, dy'e see, " could your honour have heard that the " cursed Jew was run away, and that I " could not find him, though I went all " over London to look after him ?"

“It is no matter,” I replied, “his assistance would now do me no good, I am discarded from the heart and protection of Sir Edward Eveline for ever.”

“Your honour is pleased to be merry, for I am sure his honour Sir Edward would be fired out of the mouth of a cannon, rather than send you to the right about.”

“Accuse me not of mirth, when my heart is bursting with grief; I must again turn wanderer, without resources, without friends; take up that letter, read the sentence of my banishment, I dare not read it myself.”

He gathered up the notes, laid them on the table with a grin of satisfaction, that made me accuse him of wanting sensibility for my misfortunes; he then began to look at the contents of the envelope, crying out “your honour is mistaken, your discharge

“is

“is not in the roll, the Commander has
“issued no such orders; on the contrary;
“your honour is very civilly invited to
“head-quarters.”

The partitions between all extremes, I take to be nearly of the same cobweb texture, as what is poetically described to divide the regions of wit and insanity; hope is ever at the heels of despair, and the mind when most sad, is most sensible to the impressions of joy. If there is a man in the world, who has like me, been first spoilt by an old woman, then a wandering vagabond by destiny, then adopted, indulged, educated, and after all, finds himself on the brink of losing the love of his friends, the patronage of his benefactors, and the brilliant sunshine of his promising fortune, if, I say, there is in the universe, a wight so unlucky as to be exactly in this untoward predicament, then may he judge of those emotions which almost strangled me as Alexander, in consequence of my former command that

he should examine the letter, seeing I was as unable as ever to supersede him in his office, in a voice as solemn as the tolling of a bell at a funeral, read as follows, stopping every half sentence, to make his own curious comments.

It began thus.

‘ I am sorry to have made my late application, (*his honour could not be more sorry than your honour, I’ll be bold to say*)
‘ I hope it may not be too late to save
‘ you the trouble of sending the Three
‘ Hundred Pounds, (*I wonder his honour should think it can ever be too late, to stop a man from sending what he has not got*) my friend has accommodated his affairs, without the help of any body, (*that your honour, d’ye see, is gaining a battle without hazard*) and as both my
‘ wife and I, are impatient to see our dear
‘ boy, we hope you will have no objection,
‘ either to return with our messenger, or to
‘ follow

' follow in a few days; (*if I were worthy to
advise. it should be in a few days, for I
am sore tired in running so far, after that
' devil of a few*) perhaps it will be pru-
' dent that you should remain where you
' are, long enough to settle your little mat-
' ters, which, I suppose may be brought
' into a small compass; (*very small indeed,
' your honour, except our debts*) I would
' have you discharge all obligations at col-
' lege, present your good tutor with a hand-
' some token of your gratitude; (*had all
the generals in his Majesty's service, got
their eye upon rewarding merit, like his
generous honour, by this time I might
have commanded a company, instead of
' quitting the army like a thief*) you may
' also wish to oblige some young men of
' worth, whose means are less ample than
' your own, or to reward some of your in-
' feriors, to whose kindness or diligence
' you may have been indebted; for these
' purposes, I send you a trifling addition
' to your finances, (*heaven preserve his ho-*
H 3 *nour,*

nour, there never was such another commander.) It is by no means certain, that you will return any more to college, and you see, my dear Delves, I am providing for that exigence, by putting it in your power to leave it with credit, (*mind that your honour,—leave it with credit,—why there is not so creditable a scholar in all the university from one end to the other of it, as your honour will be now you are got on full pay.*) If you have no use for my servant send him back directly, and name the day when we may expect you in London; bring honest Alexander and Trim-bush in your suite.’ Alexander observed with a profound bow, “that it was more glory to be named by such a noble gentleman, than to be muster master of all the forces in Great Britain;” and then finished the affectionate conclusion of this gracious, most heart-reviving epistle, which I afterwards deluged with the tears of rapture, and almost demolished with the kisses of gratitude, worked up to devotion.

I dispatched

I dispatched Alexander to take care of the messenger, who brought to me such unexpected happiness. To neglect the most insignificant engine that has contributed to our felicity, if it is not a want of generosity, it is at least a want of feeling, a deficiency of which I have never had occasion to accuse myself; too much and not too little susceptibility has been the fault of my nature, and sometimes the torment of my life.

I was more than an hour alone, before I could determine what was first to be done; my mind was the ocean, my ideas the waves, now advancing, now receding from the shore of reason:—should I seek H—— to communicate my good fortune, to ask his counsel, to seek in his meek humility an antidote to the rising pride of prosperity, to learn from his exalted wisdom, his christian philosophy, how to bear the change of my condition with becoming fortitude?—should I wait on Mr. Stanmore to acquaint

him with the commands I had received from Sir Edward, and set out immediately to obey those delightful commands?—or should I precede my appearance before those beloved parents by a letter? after all I adopted the latter measure, what I said in this letter is little to the purpose; if there is eloquence in the genuine language of the soul, it ought to have been eloquent, energetic I am sure it was, being made up of feelings which I found it difficult to support.

When I had sent off Sir Edward's servant, I set about making preparations for following him in three days, which were chiefly passed with my good tutor and that exalted friend, whose early fate, though glorious to himself, must ever be lamented by a world, whose brightest luminary withdrew almost at its rising.

C H A P. XVI.

Delves in a Panic.

NOTWITHSTANDING all the goodness I had so lately experienced from Sir Edward Eveline, and the extreme eagerness I certainly felt to throw myself at his feet, the consciousness of having made so many imprudent uses of his bounty, as well as what he might think of me now that he had received my penitential confession, did not leave my mind perfectly at ease, as I entered the post chaise, followed by Alexander and Trimbush, and every mile we approached towards the capital, my panic encreased; at last it shot up to such a gigan-

tic growth that when I found myself in the embraces of Sir Edward and Lady Eveline, I almost fainted in their arms.

The methods taken first to recover, and afterwards to reconcile me to myself, must be so well understood by the pupils of benevolence, that they will stand in no need of a receipt, should any poor fellow in my situation, call upon them for the cure of a wounded conscience; and as to the herd of nature's family, who inherit none of her amiable propensities, who have never drawn from her breast the milk of human kindness, to all such it would be impertinent to offer a receipt, which it is impossible they should ever know how to administer.

I was soon made the delighted prisoner of these dear, these compassionate parents; they set me down between them, and held me in the filken fetters of affection, flatteringly improved by the richest tokens of their

their approbation, they could not think ill of me, they would not let me think ill of myself, so that in the short space of half an hour, they had almost persuaded me that I was a very proper young gentleman.

The first rational question to which I was equal, demanded news of Mr. Darcy, and when he would be released from his official duties that my felicity might have nothing to expect, being informed he was as much my friend as ever, and would return in a few weeks. I next ventured to tell my kind Mamma, I thought her more *en bon point* than when I saw her last.

“It is not unlikely,” said Sir Edward, with a smile of satisfaction, which for the first time made me suspect that I was not to be the sole heir of their fortune, a surmise that gave me the truest joy, whatever suggestion may occur to the mercenary reader, to invalidate the declaration; I only won-

dered what they would do with the poor little infant, and if it would be taken from them, and sent to Papa Owen as I had been, he was still capable of entering on nursery business, for I wrote to and heard from him regularly once a month; his writing had lost nothing of its beauty, and a postscript from Winifred added to every letter, constantly assured me of their mutual good health as well as everlasting love.

The happiest day I ever passed in my life, was that which united me to my family; it confirmed to my apprehensive mind, that my conduct had not forfeited their esteem, and that my influence over their affections was lively as ever; even Alexander was honoured with their notice, and Trimbush shared their caresses.

“Do you remember Delves,” said Mamma, patting his shaggy hide with her fair hand, as he raised his monstrous

paws

paws to rest them on a sprigged muslin dress of the finest texture, and which she would not suffer me to remove, "do you remember when we carried you by force from your old dame and her hens, that you discovered less sagacity than your dog? he went willingly to meet his good fortune, but you would have resisted yours, if we had not possessed superior strength, as well as superior authority."

I returned such an answer, as pleased both her ladyship and Sir Edward. "He neither wants memory or gratitude," said the latter, "he has neither forgotten his early friends, or the essential services they have done him."

"In point of his very early connexions," replied Mamma, casting on me a look that covered my face with burning blushes. "I cannot be exactly of your opinion my dear, if the Godolphins are to be ranked in the number of his *first* friends, pray observe,

“ observe, has he asked a single question
“ concerning them, no, not so much as
“ whether they are dead or alive.”

I endeavoured to laugh off this serious attack on my sensibility, by saying, “ why
“ what should be the matter with them,
“ they have a *lord* in their family, will not
“ that good fortune crown them all with
“ abundant health, and abundant happiness?”

“ Delves, Delves,” said Mamma; she had time to say no more, it was the night on which she saw company, we were expecting them in the drawing room, already the knocker had signified some arrival of consequence. It was the celebrated Countess of Epsom, fine as the lady of Loretta, and in all the pride of evergreen-beauty; she preceded her two married daughters, neither of whom could vie with their mother either in the bloom of circassian, or Hebe-like dimples of youthful expression.

pression. Lady Mary Duff attracted less of my notice than her sister, lady Wiliminia Raymond; not that I greatly admired any of the trio, but I was beginning to study physiognomy after the rules that had been given me by my friend H——, the characters of which study were so plainly marked on the countenance of lady Wiliminia, that I began to read with avidity, taking for my first lesson an easy subject in hopes my judgment would not make its depute to much disadvantage. I therefore formed my opinion, and said to myself, I will ask lady Eveline at some other time if it is a just one.

Her assembly on this evening was remarkably brilliant, several very pretty girls tried a thousand prettinesses to draw out the young Oxonian; or perhaps my vanity would not occasion me to err very egregiously, if instead of saying to draw him out, I had said to draw him in, it being the custom for the present race of modern females

males to be taught by their Mammæ, in imitation of birds, how to cater for their own provision, as soon as they are able to fly abroad; I have confessed that I was no man of gallantry. and in the present circle amongst whom I could perceive nothing to remind me, of the only mistress my heart had ever acknowledged, I became so extremely inattentive, making such short replies, and throwing so much rustic indifference into the little I did say, as very soon drew them from the pursuit of a drone, to chase down several gaudy butterflies, with whom they might reasonably expect to be more successful.

In my deserted state I looked round for somebody of the same *sombre* complexion with myself, to whom I might talk without being obliged to say civil things, and at last my choice fell on a woman of that description, which persuades one that she had never met with any thing of the kind, and of course would never expect it; besides,
there

there was in her features that sort of expression, which seemed to promise a rich repast to the ever craving appetite of curiosity; for these reasons I occupied the chair next to her, which another had vacated to sit down at a card table.

At first my neighbour seemed little inclined to cultivate the pleasures of society; for some minutes, her brevity out-did my own, her eyes and her whole senses were so much employed in observing who played together, who talked together, who ogled, who sighed, who laughed, who talked loud, and who whispered, that whenever I spoke to her she only answered by monosyllables, in a voice too so pettish, as I could not but construe into the words *you are impertinent*.

Has this woman, thought I, no key to her confidence? I tried many before I could find one that would fit; however I determined that at least she should see my person, before she quite rejected my advances; I
therefore

therefore contrived to entangle my buckle amongst some of her finery, which made her face about to assist my efforts in setting her at liberty, when she returned something like a compliment to my apologies for having incommoded her, and no longer resisted my wish to engage her in a tête à tête.

"By what magic is it Madam," said I, "you can escape that influenza for play, which seems so generally prevalent?"

"I detest cards," she replied, "my forte is conversation."

"I am glad to hear you announce this, Madam, I began to fear that silent contemplation had alone the powers of engaging you."

"I excuse your error sir, and can account for it; you have seen me full of observation, but without observation one should be ill fitted for conversation; there
" is

"is no sort of knowledge so agreeable as
"that of the world, or any study more
"worthy of pursuit: to me assemblies would
"be quite a bore, if it was not that here
"one are more likely to acquire informa-
"tion than either at balls where all is so
"confused, that one can scarcely distin-
"guish objects, or at masquerades, where
"though one may hear, one can never re-
"port what one does hear, because spoken
"behind a mask; and what signifies the
"speech, unless one can give it with the
"name of the speaker."

C H A P.

C H A P. XVII.

Two sorts of Gossips.

NOBODY will deny that for the archives of antiquity there is no better repository than the memory of a recording old gossip, nor for modern events which require circulation, a more ready channel than the tongue of an envious young gossip. Now it happened that lady Bell Wezell, to whom I had the honour of listening with the utmost devotion, was neither of those, yet a composition of both, for besides having great talents herself, she could remember court anecdotes, and family anecdotes twenty years preceding; but then they were related

to her by her grandmother, who she assured me lived very much in the world, and was possessed of such extraordinary powers of penetration as were considered next to supernatural; for, added she, “not a single divorce for thirty years prior to her death had taken place amongst her numerous acquaintance, but what she had foretold to every body, at least six weeks before their little indiscretions became generally known beyond the circle of her ladyship’s own particular friends.”

There can be no doubt, but that those who have given themselves the trouble to consider the tendency of my juvenile disposition, will surmise the entertainment I must have found in a character so new to me, and upon which I could innocently feed my humour for ridicule; to hunt the hunter, and devour the devourer, being fair game, there can lay no just imputation against my honour, or humanity; and to confess the truth, I never bestowed so much unqualified flattery

ry to accomplish any purpose, in the whole course of my life, as to seduce this wanderer from the path of christian charity, even further into the road of detraction than perhaps she might have proceeded, stranger as I was, unless I had strewed her whole way with the flowers of praise, and the sweets of admiration.

I appeared to be charmed with her wit, her beauty I could not extol, yet I pleased her equally, by defacing all that was lovely in the objects around me, and by this sacrifice gained a compleat conquest over her heart, which sent me the intelligence through a pair of grey squinting eyes that looked twenty ways at once.

We had gone nearly over half the assembly, sometimes walking, sometimes sitting down; in our survey of every individual member that composed it, none came out of her canvass with fewer disadvantages than they generally contrive to make

make to themselves from their cradle to their grave, that is to say, from the finishing of nature, to the consummation of art.

I observed that my companion was extremely careffed by every body, whom she condescended to address, whether they were playing, strolling, or sitting, and that she was by no means sparing of the most friendly enquiries conveyed in the most affectionate phrases to every one who accosted her, or whom she accosted. When I afterwards repeated this scene to lady Eveline, and expressed my surprise that there should be so much shadow of esteem, without substance, this was her reply, " My dear boy, " you are an absolute novice, or you would " know there are nothing but shadows that " can flourish in the regions of fashion; to " such places we only wear the resemblance " of our good things, as we often put on " paste for the better security of our real " jewels; the virtues of sincerity, philan- " thropy,

“ thropy, with a thousand other that would
“ be trampled under foot in so barren a soil,
“ are best and safest when planted in our
“ domestic circles. As to your acquaintance
“ of the night,” continued she, “ her lady-
“ ship receives homage, not for her good,
“ but her evil dispositions; she may be cal-
“ led the very pest of society, it is synony-
“ mous to say she is universally hated,
“ universally courted; every body fears to
“ come under her lash, which make them
“ willing to ransom their reputations at any
“ price; and her returns of cordiality, are
“ nothing more than instruments with which
“ she is ever trying to pick the lock of their
“ confidence, that she might unfold their
“ errors to the whole world.”

I have put in this short stricture perhaps
in a wrong place, as it precedes instead of
follows one half at least of the matter, on
which were founded the enquiries that pro-
duced it; indeed I secreted no part of it
from lady Eveline, I also mean to deal as
candidly

candidly with my readers, and give them all the news of the day, by that editor of scandal, the Right Honourable Lady Bell Wezell.

The Right Honourable Lady Bell Wezell passing by the chair of the Right Honourable Countess of Epsom, stopped to make her a very pretty compliment on the brilliancy of her countenance, which must be owned was bright as the illumined face of heaven, whilst depositing in her play purse a considerable number of guineas, the fruits of a successful rubber.

"That woman," said she, as soon as we were out of hearing, "carries in her made-up face, a calender of her good or bad fortune at play; sometimes she looks like a Circe, sometimes like a Fury."

I shrugged my shoulders, and observed, "that it was bad policy to put her charms so much in the power of chance."

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I

"Oh!

“ Oh ! as to that,” she replied, “ much
“ may be said in her excuse, and if she had
“ no worse resource than gaming, to sup-
“ port her rank, and long family, one could
“ hardly feel that she had any errors.”

“ You are very indulgent Madam to your
“ sex, by this lenity to a vice, which is con-
“ sidered as no ornament to a female.”

“ True,” said she, “ but you must al-
“ low first, there are vices a thousand times
“ more dangerous in their consequences;
“ pray whether should you think it better if
“ you were married, that your wife should
“ lose a small portion of your fortune at
“ play, or that she should load your estate
“ with fortunes for those children, in whom
“ you are not interested; now tell me which
“ of these two fashionable evils would be
“ your choice ?”

“ If optional, I shall require so much
“ time Madam for deliberation, as will
“ occasion

“ occasion me to lose much benefit from
“ your charmingly animated representations,
“ which will infallibly teach me to hate all
“ women but yourself; permit me then to
“ seize on a less favourable moment for my
“ determination, and when I have made
“ up my mind, I shall let you know the
“ result.”

“ You are a most rational man,”—she
stopped in the midst of her intended com-
pliment, to make me observe two young
men, who were walking about arm in arm,
“ perhaps,” said she, “ you have never
“ heard from what a corrupted root this
“ violent intimacy has sprung up so sud-
“ denly ?”

I declared my ignorance of the whole
matter, even of who, and what the gen-
tlemen were, to whom she alluded; this I
should probably have done had I been as
well instructed as herself, merely for the
I 2 pleasure

pleasure of quaffing scandal at the fountain-head.

“ Let us sit down in these places which
“ are vacant in the corner, and I shall tell
“ you all about it,” cried lady Bell, “ from
“ thence too we can watch her ladyship’s
“ motions, for notwithstanding this new
“ born friendship between her husband and
“ her lover, the world will hardly believe
“ these pretences, as long as she continues
“ to blush through her rouge whenever she
“ looks at Mr. Marchmeer.”

I asked if this Mr. Marchmeer was the lover ?

“ Doubtless !” said she, “ what wife has
“ so little of the times in her manners, to
“ show any discomposure at the presence
“ of her husband, unless indeed he happens
“ to intrude by surprise, but this I believe,
“ has never been the case with lady Wili-
“ minia

“minia Raymond, who knows as well as
“any body how to conduct her little ar-
“rangements with privacy.”

This was coming to the point, the lady now under examination, was to confirm or abolish my skill in physiognomy, supposing all just allowances to be made on the score of exaggeration.

“How delightful,” said lady Bell, seeing with what avidity I attended to her unwearied powers, “how delightful to meet
“in so young a man, with so much seriousness, so much sound understanding, so
“great a desire for information, as I find
“in you, it is really wonderful at your
“years. Oh ! what divine harmony, what
“rapturous enjoyment, when kindred minds
“mingle together, in all the sweets of confidence.”

“But my dear Madam,” said I, interrupting her, apprehensive that she was go-

ing to propose between us an indissoluble union, " your goodness to me, makes you
" forget that you were speaking of lady
" Wiliminia Raymond. I think your lady-
" ship said that she knew how to conduct
" her arrangements with privacy?"

" You are very good to put me in re-
" membrance, I as seldom forget these
" things as most people, but when one's
" memory is stored with much, if a little
" escape, it may be pardonable; as to the
" affair of lady Wiliminia, it has been so
" long on the *tapis* that it is grown quite
" stale; her husband is the only person upon
" the face of the earth who shuts his eyes to
" her infidelities; we have been more than
" two months expecting to hear of a divorce,
" every hour, when all on a sudden, the
" world were fascinated into silence, by see-
" ing the husband leagued with the lover,
" always together, always as you now see
" them lounging arm in arm, sometimes
" with the object of their affections walk-
" ing,

“ing, sometimes riding, on one hand
“Marchmeer, on the other Raymond, so
“I leave you to judge, whether she must
“not be an excellent contriver.”

“But suppose Madam, she should have
“seen her fault, repented, and been for-
“given?”

“Alas! poor thing, she repent,—I have
“a great deal of pity for her, and should be
“glad to suppose such a change possible.
“She dotes upon Marchmeer, who they say,
“tired of her partiality, is shearing off,
“with all decent expedition. I really be-
“lieve this report to be a true one, or what
“should make her ladyship run about the
“country after fortune tellers? It was only
“a few days since as I went to visit a friend
“of mine at Norwood, the receptacle for
“those vagabonds; I passed by her carri-
“age, and saw her with my own eyes
“sitting *vis a vis* to an old gipsy hag,
“who as she examined the lines of her hand

"leered so significantly, that I could swear
"she was engaging for what will never be
"established, the constancy of Marchmeer."

C H A P. XVIII.

The beginning of a Mystery.

LADY Bell, having done with Lady Wiliminia looked round for a new subject, and fixing on a female of some beauty had just exclaimed, "what a fright!" when our *tête à tête* was interrupted by a very unlucky accident.

Trimbush being unadvised of my felicity, and desirous to know what was become of me, had through the negligence of the servants,

Whilst I was asking permission to enquire, what could have caused an interruption so unseasonable, the porter brought in a letter, which he said came by express from Wiltshire ; Sir Edward broke the seal with a trembling impatience, whilst Mamma, with a countenance not more composed, leaning over his shoulder, seemed to devour the contents. " Thank God," cried she, " for a present misfortune which may turn out a future blessing, you will go my dear, I am sure you will go to him in this exigence."

" Yes my love, I shall go immediately, and take Delves with me."

" No you must not travel by night, indeed you must not travel in the dark, I cannot risk the sacrifice of every thing that is dearest to me on earth ; either to kindness for the poor sufferer, or to thy cares for the interest of this beloved boy."

"My life," replied Sir Edward, wrapping his arms round her no longer slender waist, "you have nothing to fear for my safety, but every thing to hope from my success; the day is not far off, it will be here before the carriage can be got ready for our departure; in the mean time, let me lead you to your chamber." To this proposal she assented, tenderly embraced me, a tear fell from her eye, and rested on my hand, as she said in a voice stifled with emotions, "for the sake of his angel mother, awful Heaven! take him under thy holy protection."

She was gone, and astonishment had captivated my utterance, I could only say to myself, when I saw her no more, "if you are not that angel mother, if Sir Edward is not my father, who am I, what am I, who are my parents?" The family of complexed ideas that rushed into my soul, I could neither assort or support; the more I tried to collect them, the more they were scattered;

vants, followed them into the room, and passing under a card-table, which impeded our meeting rather than make towards me by the longest way about, the event was exactly what might have been expected, cards, counters, candles, table, all fell to the ground; one lady had her petticoat set in a flame, every man flew to extinguish it, every woman screamed, and Lady Bell would have fainted in my arms, if Trim-bush had given her any encouragement, who on the contrary, seeing me intralled against my will, began to accomplish my release with such violence, that I was forced to drag him out of the room, and was so much ashamed of his ill-breeding, as not to return any more until all the affrighted and offended company had dispersed.

The latter part of the evening passed much more agreeably to the whole of our little domestic circle, than the commencement of it; Sir Edward and Lady Eveline laughed without ceasing, at my observations

tions on Assemblies, as well as the members who compose them; then it was Mamma gave me that short stricture, which made its appearance in the last chapter, and the time-piece over the chimney had struck one, before any motion was made to separate.

"It is time to retire," said Mamma, "Delves light your taper, give me mine, and ring the bell for our servants."

A loud knocking at the street door made her start, "what can that mean?" she cried turning pale as death.

"Oh nothing my love," replied Sir Edward, "for God fake, do not alarm yourself, it can be only occasioned by some of those stragglers who emigrate from assembly to assembly, and expect to find at all houses, all doors open for their admittance."

Whilst

“to lose, go my dear son, prepare for your
“journey, and know that when I resign
“you into the arms of your family, it will
“be an exchange very much to your ad-
“vantage.”

This hint produced a revolution in my mortified spirits ; then I am still a gentleman, thought I, and flew with avidity to put myself in readiness.

I found Alexander in my chamber, very busily making up a small package of linen ; he was smiling to himself, as though he had a good presentiment of the expedition, for which he was making preparations. I asked no questions, but bidding him bring my cloaths, changed them for those I had on as fast as I could ; the short time he was assisting me in this operation, his joy betrayed him into the most ridiculous mistakes, instead of the arms, he put the flaps of the coat over my shoulders, instead of boots, brought me my slippers, and
when

when I told him I believed he was either mad, or drunk, "like enough your honour," he replied, "and so would the best foldier in his Majesty's service, when such preferment stared him in the face; your honour remembers dy'e see, your promise, that when you are a great man, I am to have a command in your household."

"I shall keep my word," replied I, "provided you take care of Trimbush in my absence."

"You shall never find me off duty in that quarter; your honour, I shall be proud to serve him with the same respect that I do your honour, and——"

CHAP.

scattered ; I was under the restriction of silence, respecting whatever had a reference to my own situation, those kind protectors, whom I till now so confidently supposed to be the authors of my existence, had exacted it as a proof of my obedience, which I ever invariably held sacred, and now determined not to forfeit it, so much as even by renewing my questions to Alexander, which from a scruple of conscience, I had long ceased putting to him ; I was sure he knew a great deal, but I found in my childhood, his secrecy incorruptible, and now that I verged on manhood, I made no attempts to corrupt it.

When Sir Edward returned, ready to begin our journey, he found me walking about in evident disorder, and totally unprepared to attend him ; he took no notice of my confusion, but only advised me to put on a warmer coat, with another over it, to keep out the cold air of the morning. I asked if Alexander was to go with us ? He said
“ there

“there would be no occasion for the attendance of Alexander, his servants, and those of the house to which we were going, being intirely my own. I am sensible,” he added, “that what you have seen, and heard, in the last half hour, must appear extremely mysterious ; I am thankful that you do not importune me for an explanation, which shall be protracted only till it will best coincide with your interest to draw aside the veil.”

I kissed the hands of my adopted father, assuring him of my respect for his commands, and of my perfect disposition to wait his pleasure, having found under his protection every advantage, every tenderness it was possible I should have experienced, from the author of my being.

“Perhaps,” said he, “you will be soon released from your present state of suspense, I cannot ascertain that it *will* be so, but I hope it *may*, we have not a moment

“to

C H A P. XIX.

A Journey begun and ended in a few Words.

A MESSAGE from Sir Edward called me away, without waiting to hear the conclusion of his comparative flourish.

Six horses, were put to the travelling chaise, the morning dawned, a dead silence reigned through the streets, broken only by the hoarse and distant voice of watchmen, proclaiming past three o'clock. Our fiery steeds, spurred on by the postillions, as the postillions had been by the commands of their master, flew rather than galloped, illuminating their heels with sparks, emitted from the stones over which they bounded.

“ We

“ We have neither of us been in bed,” said Sir Edward, on entering the sandy road at Hide-Park-Corner, “ it is therefore my “ advice, that we should both endeavour to “ make sleep the companion of our jour- “ ney.” He drew on his night-cap, reposed his head against the side of the carriage, and presently I perceived by his breathing that he had fallen into a real or fictitious slumber ; I knew from experience, that this younger branch of death’s family, is easily enough represented ; I saw also that my adopted father did not seem easy under the reserve necessity forced him to treat me with, on my own affairs ; I concluded he had pretended the want of rest, to avoid any conversation which might lead to my present interesting situation ; and taking possession of the post, opposite to the one he occupied, I indulged my imagination with such amazing flights into the regions of conjecture, that at last wearied in the pursuit of causes, which were not attainable, fancy dropped her pinions, my eyes

eyes closed, and I awoke no more till our carriage stopped at the very gates, where I expected it would stop, even at the lodges which bounded the entrance to the solitary residence of the hypochondriac.

C H A P. XX.

New Feelings take Place of old Ones.

SIR Edward asked some questions of the porter, but as he spoke low, and out of the side glass, I neither heard the question, or the answer. "There has been a dreadful fire in this house," said he as we drove up the avenue, "and the good old Lord, whom you saw in your way from Wales to Eveline-Lodge, has suffered so severe a shock occasioned by the accident that his life is despaired of."

The

The invisible hand of nature pressed upon my heart, dashed from it in a moment all the former sentiments it had imbibed for the invalid, and planted there seeds of compassion, and reverence springing perhaps from the harvest of my travelling reflections, which had produced a crowd of evidences, to persuade me that this whimsical peer, of whose title I had been kept in ignorance, made by some chance or other a considerable figure in the sum of my pretensions to gentility; without this consideration, I honestly confess, I might not have sighed, and changed colour as I did, when informed that his life was in danger; I might not have replied to Sir Edward, pressing his hand with uncounterfeited emotion, "Oh my dear father, may God prolong his existence!" yet unimpressed by nature, my pity would have been moved, and I should have felt, though probably with less acuteness, for any human being, under such calamitous circumstances.

"These

"These emotions do you credit," said Sir Edward, "they discover, that you have
"penetration, as well as tenderness; en-
"courage for Lord Bellhaven every res-
"pectful, every affectionate impulse, of
"which I remark with transport your soul
"is highly capable; whatever sums of love,
"and reverence, you advance to this No-
"bleman, his children of the fifth genera-
"tion shall pay you back with accumulated
"interest."

It was impossible to misunderstand a declaration, so unequivocal; I would have exclaimed, "This unhappy sufferer is then
"my grandfather," but the words died on my lips, seeing him turn his head hastily about, as if he neither desired or expected that I should make him any reply.

As we approached nearer the castle, the smell of smoke was almost suffocating, and the devastation, caused by the fire hardly yet extinguished, apparent in the North
wing

wing of which, nothing but the walls remained standing ; on the same side of the avenue, some of the nearest trees were much burnt, and others scorched as if struck by lightning ; it was altogether a deplorable spectacle, which added to the thoughts of what fatal consequences were likely to fall on its venerable owner, produced so strange an effect on my spirits, that I entered the house not only serious, but trembling, and agitated ; I had thrown myself into the first chair that came in my way, whilst Sir Edward waited to speak in private with Doctor Rowney, to whom he sent a message, signifying our arrival ; walking about in the mean time, anxiety in his countenance, and impatience in his step ; often he would stop opposite to me, fix his eyes on my face, look as though he intended to say something important ; then with an air of irresolution, turn from me as throwing a check over his inclinations.

At

At last he drew from his pocket a sealed packet, which he put into my hands, bidding me read it at my leisure, adding, "it is the history of a Lady, whose memory will be dear to you; my wife has prepared it for your inspection, she has more of the same manuscript, but not for your perusal at the present moment."

My eagerness to examine the contents of this precious deposit was so great, that I would immediately have broken the seal, if Sir Edward had not bid me defer the gratification of my curiosity until I retired to my own apartment, where it was probable I should pass many hours, whilst he might be employed elsewhere on my service.

It was more than ten minutes, before Doctor Rowney joined us, and then with a countenance so solemn, as seemed to prognosticate no great hopes of his patient. Having shook Sir Edward by the hand, he bowed

bowed coldly to his old acquaintance, as to a stranger, whom he had never seen; but when I put him in mind, that this was not our first interview, all his gravity vanished, and his eyes sparkled with delight.

“ Good God,” cried he, “ is it possible
“ Sir Edward, that our dear diminutive
“ Delves, should in so few years, have shot
“ up to this tall graceful lovely youth?
“ Forgive my vanity reader, how well has
“ nature fitted him for——”

“ We will talk of that hereafter,” said
Sir Edward, interrupting him, “ let us now
“ speak of Lord Bellhaven; have you any
“ hopes of him, Doctor?”

He shook his head; “ none that on my
“ own single judgment I dare to entertain,
“ but my brethren of the faculty are rather
“ more sanguine, we have had one consul-
“ tation since the accident happened, and
“ this evening we are to have another.”

Sir

Sir Edward considered for a moment, and then asked "if it were better that he should have his audience before, or after this second consultation had taken place?" and was advised by all means, "not to delay the business upon which he came," looking on me as he gave his opinion; "because he had his doubts, whether the subject of it would be on this side of eternity, at the hour appointed for the meeting; his Lordship sleeps at present," he added, "if he should wake again, of which his pulse promises no certainty, you must speak to him, for as the powers of his body decrease, those of his mind strengthen. The same accident that has been the destroyer of his life, has been the resurrection of his senses; the virtues of his heart, and the clearness of his understanding were never more perfect; he knows I have sent to you, as well as to his son; him he does not expect to see, you he does, he also wished to have embraced Lady Eveline before his death; but on

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“ being told of her happy situation, which
“ made it dangerous for her to undertake
“ the journey, he blessed God for the occa-
“ sion of his own disappointment. He has
“ also spoke much of his deceased favourite,
“ and wished——”

Again Sir Edward prevented his proceeding by requesting to be informed of all the particulars, which were not contained in the letter he sent him, by express; for my part, not being desired to withdraw, I became the very statue of attention, that I might lose no syllable, in a conversation every word of which interested me beyond all description.

Doctor Rowney said, he would first look upon his patient, whose situation was extremely critical, and afterwards obey the commands of Sir Edward; his Lordship was on the ground-floor, only one room from the apartment we occupied; the doctor remained with him about five minutes, during which time the
servants

servants came in with refreshments, and carried in their mournful looks, the undeniable testimony of their Lord's graciousness; it was that sort of affectionate sorrow which spoke him their benefactor, as well as their master.

Sir Edward had forced me to swallow a small basin of chocolate, and had taken one himself. When Doctor Rowney returned, an impulsive emotion hurried me to meet him at the door; it would admit of no regulation, and I asked him with trembling impetuosity, if now he could not afford a little hope that I might mingle with the fears he had raised in my soul, for the fate of Lord Bellhaven? Sir Edward and him looked at each other, he pressed my hand, assuring me that his Lordship slept more composed, that his pulse were better, but that he would venture to say no more. Sir Edward put him in mind of his promise, and what follows, were the particulars he gave us of the dreadful disaster.

“ There is a closet,” said he, “ in the
“ chamber my Lord lately occupied, where
“ the house-maid keeps dry wood for light-
“ ing the fires, a spark had fallen amongst
“ it, and must, as it is supposed, have been
“ burning for many days, as when the
“ flames broke out, they spread with such
“ violent rapidity, that all efforts were in
“ vain to stop its progress, until the north
“ wing was utterly demolished. I did not
“ then send to you, because the fatal
“ consequence that has attended this mis-
“ fortune was unforeseen ; besides all my
“ thoughts, all my cares, were engrossed to
“ prevent it. My Lord was borne from
“ his chamber by violence, for though he
“ might have escaped, he refused to do so ;
“ he raved on the subject which has oc-
“ cupied him more than twenty years ; de-
“ clared it was the general conflagration,
“ from which he would have saved man-
“ kind, if they had not set their faces against
“ it, but now that it was so near, he was
“ resigned

"resigned to his fate, nor would move
 "from the spot where he was destined to
 "meet it; only regretting the absence of
 "his children, meaning his son and Lady
 "Eveline, that their ashes might have been
 "mingled with his; the resistance he made
 "in the struggle of removing him, caused
 "the bursting of a blood-vessel, and I fear
 "will end in his dissolution."

C H A P. XXI.

*There are Moments when a Man does not know
what will satisfy his Wishes.*

“LET us go,” said Sir Edward, “to
“ Lord Bellhaven’s chamber, and wait
“ there until he awakens.”

“ We must not subject him to a sudden
“ surprize,” returned the Doctor, “ for al-
“ though his intellects may last as long
“ as himself, running smoothly on even
“ ground, yet a second overturn is to be
“ dreaded, should we throw in his way
“ the smallest impediment ; he expects you,
“ but he must be told you are come, before
“ you see him.”

“ Be

“ Be it so,” replied Sir Edward, “ how-
“ ever let us remain in his Lordship’s anti-
“ room, until you have prepared him for
“ my reception ; in the mean time, I am
“ mistaken if Delves does not find enough
“ employment, to fix his attention, in ex-
“ amining certain papers I have put into
“ his possession.”

“ For God sake !” I exclaimed, “ for
“ God sake, my dear father, tell me, do
“ they concern any part of that family, to
“ whom nature has attached me ? do they
“ speak of my moth——”

He laid his fingers on my lips, affectionately pressed my hand, bid me be patient, and went out with Doctor Rowney.

I guessed they were gone to converse together, with the greater freedom ; I supposed myself to be the principal object of their consultation, I would have been with them in the moment of their privacy ; I

would have followed them to the bed of my grandfather. I had collected sufficient proofs, that I was really the descendant of Lord Bellhaven; I would have anticipated time to know if he could be prevailed upon to acknowledge me for his grandson, in short my whole frame was agitated; I was sorry they were retired without me, yet I was glad to be alone. I threw myself on a sofa, broke the seals of my packet, saw it was written by Lady Eveline, and read those words on the envelope.

*"The first part of a History, interesting to
"the dear Youth of my tenderest Affection."*

Casting my eyes over the manuscript, I was struck with the erasure of several words, which on nearer inspection, I found to be names altered; these which remained, interlining, those that had preceded them were so compleatly expunged, that though I held them to the light, in every possible direction, rubbed and scraped them, until the
paper

paper was perfectly scarified, I could not make out a single letter of the names that had been obliterated, and for such were substituted those of Lord Bellhaven, and Lord Talbot; there were no others which had suffered any alteration, from the pen of Lady Eveline; however, that of Talbot, made me recollect something I had heard in former times, concerning a Lord Talbot. What that something was, did not immediately recur to my memory, and impatience to become master of the whole contents of the precious deposit, left me no time for reflection: I read, and my reader may read if he pleases.

C H A P. XXII.

The History.

“ IT was a tempestuous night, the wind
“ blew a hurricane. The hurricane
“ swept before its cutting blast, the thinly
“ scattered fragments of a beautiful au-
“ tumn. Rain, hail, snow, all united to
“ form a torrent that seemed to threaten a
“ second deluge, and filled with the strong-
“ est alarms the heart of a tender husband,
“ for the safety of a beloved wife, whom he
“ was conducting from his seat, in North
“ Wales, to a residence in England, that
“ had been prepared for her reception, be-
“ fore she became a mother ; many cir-
cumstances

“ circumstances had detained them in the
“ country beyond the time prudence
“ would have dictated, or any thing but
“ necessity made them comply with.

“ Either from fright or fatigue, the lady
“ felt herself extremely indisposed at the foot
“ of one of those bleak mountains, whose am-
“ bitious aspirings promises neither hospita-
“ lity or shelter to the storm-pelted traveller.
“ Mr. Delves distracted at the condition of
“ his wife, left her to the care of her wo-
“ men, got out of the carriage, mounted one
“ of the servant's horses, and galloped off
“ in pursuit of some cottage or house, to
“ which she might be conveyed; he or-
“ dered that the coach should follow him
“ with the least possible motion, and in half
“ an hour it arrived at the door of a small
“ cabin, at which the coachman halted,
“ enquiring if a gentleman on horseback
“ had stopped there? An old woman, told
“ him in her native Welch, which none of
“ the other servants understood, that such a
K 6 “ person

"person as he described had rode up to the
"door, and asked lodgings for a sick lady,
"but that having no accommodation, she
"had directed him about a mile farther, to
"the house of a great Lord, where he would
"be sure to find plenty of every thing he
"stood in need of, pointing out the road
"they were to take, by order of the gen-
"tleman."

"The storm every moment acquired new
"force, the thunder rolled over their heads,
"the lightning forked into a thousand di-
"rections as they approached Castle Tal-
"bot: the glass dome of which illuminated
"by burning flashes, emitted from the tur-
"bulent clouds, was an object that inspired
"Mrs. Delves and her attendants with
"confidence. She wondered indeed, when
"they were arrived almost to the gates of
"this magnificent edifice, that her hus-
"band had not returned to conduct her;
"she had opposed his leaving her, with the
"best powers she possessed, under her bo-

person "

o 21

" dily

"dily inflictions, but the desire of securing
 "her an asylum, had made him deaf to her
 "cries, tears, and intreaties; the new shock
 "of not finding him there to receive her
 "produced fresh pangs, and the nurse, who
 "travelled in her suit, called out to the ser-
 "vants, bidding them knock and ring
 "without ceasing, until somebody came to
 "the assistance of her mistress, whom she
 "could no longer support, screaming and
 "fainting alternately on her bosom.

"Several servants immediately ran out
 "with lights, followed by Lord Bellhaven,
 "who himself assisted to lift the miserable
 "wife from the carriage; her first question
 "seemed to fill him with astonishment.
 "Where, cried she, is my husband! for the
 "love of Heaven, if you would save my
 "life, convince me that no accident has
 "befallen him."

"My dear madam be composed, ten-
 "derly replied this good Lord of the sea-
 "maritime

Can

“maritime description, if he has promised
“to meet you here depend on it——”

“Oh God! she exclaimed, promised to
“meet me! she then relapsed into a state
“of insensibility, was carried to the house,
“put to bed, and every possible assistance
“administered to her relief. Lady Bell-
“haven had just at this critical juncture
“been safely delivered of a son. The *sage*
“*fenane* was still at the Castle, and called
“upon to attend the suffering stranger,
“but whilst her arrival was cautiously con-
“cealed from the new made mother, her
“Lord occupied himself in gaining such
“intelligence from the servants, as filled
“him with reasonable apprehensions for
“the fate of their master, with whose con-
“sequence and character he was well ac-
“quainted, although personally unknown
“to each other.

“Dreadful as the storm continued, he
“went out himself, and sent his domestics
“several

“several ways, if possible, to discover the
“unfortunate traveller. He took that path
“where he most suspected an accident
“might have happened, and was but a too
“good prognosticator. Not far from the
“cabin, whence the affectionate husband
“fatally took his directions to Castle Tal-
“bot, his Lordship recollected there were
“sudden and short descents, extremely dan-
“gerous to uninformed travellers, of which
“perhaps his old directress had omitted to
“give him notice, and with trembling steps
“drawing near one of the most deep, of
“course most dangerous declivities, be-
“ing surrounded with Mr. Delves’s fer-
“vants, who carried lanthorns, he looked
“down and saw at the bottom two figures,
“one as he supposed of a man laying on
“the ground, the other of a horse standing
“near him. Lord Bellhaven glowing with
“that humanity, for which he is most of all
“men living distinguished, at the risk of
“his own safety suddenly descended into
“the almost perpendicular abyss; one by
“one,

“one the servants followed the example he
“set them, and having examined the fea-
“tures of the fallen victim by the lights
“they held, with the most touching lamen-
“tations they acknowledged him to have
“been their master ; a master, who by his
“virtues had rendered himself so beloved,
“that the expression of their sorrows had
“in it more the language of children
“mourning for a father, than of hirelings
“selfishly grieving for their own interest.

“I do not think he is quite dead, said
“his Lordship, something may yet be done
“to save him, if we could but take him up
“the side of the precipice, and convey
“him to the Castle.’ That my Lord,
“may be done,” cried the domestics, “let
“the body be lashed on upon two of us
“as we lie flat on our faces, and we will
“bring him up, or lose our lives in the
“trial.’ Lord Talbot saw no better ex-
“pedient, in a moment every man as well
“as himself had stripped off his garters,
“and

" and having tied the body between them,
" so that it could receive no more bruises,
" creeping on their hands and knees, they
" at last attained the summit.

" The cottage being so much nearer than
" the Castle, they carried their lifeless bur-
" then to the former, where after having
" dispatched orders for a carriage to be sent
" and a surgeon to attend, Lord Bellhaven
" began to examine the state of the body,
" which still retained some vital warmth;
" none of the bones were broken, nor did
" there appear any wound, that he could
" discover. He forced open the teeth
" which were clenched, and poured down
" a cordial he had brought with him ; he
" also with a sharp pen-knife, for the first
" time in his life, ventured to open a
" vein, a few drops of blood followed, and
" when the surgeon of his household arriv-
" ed, symptoms of respiration were visi-
" ble.

" Such

“ Such was the condition in which Mr.
“ Delves was transported, from the cabin
“ to Castle Talbot, insensible to his own
“ situation, as well as to the excruciating
“ tortures of his adored wife, who at the
“ same moment contended with distrac-
“ tion, convulsions, and the pains of labour.
“ Whilst her own women, and some of
“ Lady Bellhaven’s, remained in the cham-
“ ber of Mrs. Delves ; Lord Bellhaven sat
“ by the bed-side of her husband, anxiously
“ waiting his return to life, which happen-
“ ed in a shorter time than might have
“ been expected, but attended by certain
“ symptoms, inimical to hope. Another
“ surgeon had been sent for, and the pa-
“ tient by both was announced a dead man,
“ without any possibility of escaping the
“ sentence by any other means, and even
“ that very uncertain in its success, than
“ submitting to the operation of trepaning,
“ his skull being most dreadfully fractured.

“ As

“ As they consulted together, the object of
“ their care, who had not yet made any effort
“ to speak, pronounced the word ‘ No.’ Lord
“ Bellhaven pressed his hand, and beckoned
“ to the surgeons to withdraw, as he ob-
“ served the dying man strain his eyes to
“ fix them on their faces, with insanity in
“ their expression. When he saw they had
“ left the room, after several trials to arti-
“ culate, he asked, ‘ where am I?—where is
“ my——’ he could proceed no further.
“ ‘ You are,’ said his Lordship, ‘ with a
“ a friend, your amiable wife is also under
“ the same protection ; compose yourself,
“ and endeavour to get well, that to-mor-
“ row you may be re-united.’ Whilst he
“ was yet speaking, the wretched husband
“ had fallen into a doze, in which he con-
“ tinued the remainder of the night,
“ watched by his noble host, who never
“ quitted his bed, but to speak with the
“ surgeons who attended, in a distant part
“ of the chamber.

“ Towards

“ Towards the dawn of day, he seemed
“ to sleep so sound, that notwithstanding
“ all that had been foreseen by the gentle-
“ men of the faculty, Lord Talbot would
“ not permit himself to suppose the patient
“ rendered dear to him, by the very acts of
“ kindness he had conferred upon him,
“ could actually be in so great danger as
“ they represented; in this opinion he was
“ the more established, when Mr. Delves
“ awakening from a sleep of many hours
“ asked for chocolate in a strong voice,
“ though his ideas still seemed confused,
“ which confusion also subsided as soon as
“ he had taken refreshment.

“ He now enquired the reason, why he
“ did not see his wife near him? and was
“ told, that having that night been deliver-
“ ed of two daughters, she could only send
“ him her dearest remembrances, and her
“ intreaties, that he would not attempt to
“ leave his room, till he could do so with
“ safety to himself.

“ I know

“I know my own situation,” he said, “I
“know we shall meet no more in this
“world, but let me behold my children,
“let me embrace and bless them once be-
“fore I am taken from them for ever.”
“The infants were brought to him—his
“wife was no more—she had expired in
“giving them birth. The tender father
“shed torrents of tears over the lovely
“strangers, but the death of their mother
“was carefully concealed from him during
“the few hours he survived her. In the
“intermediate time, having understood
“from his attendants, to whom he was in-
“debted not only for the rights of hospi-
“tality, but also for the exertions of more
“than friendship, of almost fraternal affec-
“tion ; he employed himself in giving di-
“rections for a will, making Lord Tal-
“bot, by his own consent, sole trustee for
“his infant daughters, investing him with
“unrestrained authority over their vast for-
“tunes, as well as their persons, should
“they have the misfortune to lose their
“mother,

“ mother, who would, if spared to them, he
“ said, be the natural, the prudent, and the
“ affectionate guardian of their conduct.

“ Until this momentous affair was final-
“ ly finished, he signified no desire to see
“ the wife he adored, and from whom he
“ expected an eternal separation ; but no
“ sooner had the will been executed, than
“ he requested he might be carried to
“ her apartment. Lord Talbot shuddered
“ at the proposition, represented the fatal
“ consequence which would probably at-
“ tend such an indulgence, in her present
“ situation, without confessing that she had
“ preceded his departure ; talked of defer-
“ ing their interview a little longer, and re-
“ peated the strongest intreaties, that he
“ would submit to the trepan, but in vain ;
“ he said it was too late. The prediction was
“ too soon verified, he died the same night,
“ and the remains of this unfortunate
“ couple were deposited together in the
“ family vault, belonging to that noble
“ house,

“house, to whom the dying father had
“attached the fate of his orphan daugh-
“ters.”

C H A P. XXIII.

Cogitations.

I AM now going to interrupt the course of this pathetic narrative, to say what were my feelings, what were my reflections whilst reading, or rather devouring the contents of the manuscript, which involuntarily I steeped in my tears. This is no fictitious sorrow, I cried, neither does it spring from sympathy merely, there must be a deeper cause for the anguish I experience for these interesting victims; I must certainly

certainly belong to them ; it is the voice of nature that can alone excite the emotions with which I participate their melancholy fate—I bear their name—I feel my affinity to them—am I their son?—how then can Lord Bellhaven be my grandfather?—No, two daughters are only mentioned ; had I been their son, would they have cast me from them? would they have disowned and even in their last moments, have neglected a child, who never could have offended them? The more I reasoned, the more I was confused ; I looked from the first to the last line of the manuscript, searching for a date, but no date was to be found. I grew weary of conjectures, and returned with avidity to the unexamined pages which might help to develope the mystery ; from page the twelfth, to page the thirtieth was missing, and on the margin of the paper, was newly written with a pencil by Lady Eveline, “ *The above is only necessary, my dear Delves, to your information ; what immediately follows might entertain, but would not instruct* ”

"struck you, the moments you are now passing will be precious to you. I therefore omit sending every thing that happened in the infancy of the two orphan children, whose parents were tenderly supplied to them, by their generous and noble protectors."

Satisfied with this short explanation, I impatiently proceeded to make myself master of what remained for my inspection.

C H A P. XXIV.

The History Continued.

“ LORD Talbot at this time became
“ L Earl of Bellhaven, his lady, and
their young people, were united by uni-
“ son of soul, as well as by the strongest ties
“ of affection to each other; there was no
“ distinction made between their own son,
“ the only prop of their illustrious house,
“ and the two blossoms which untimely fal-
“ len from their parent tree, they had ten-
“ derly sheltered in their bosoms. Lord
“ Talbot did not engross their love, he only
“ shared it with Eleanor and Augusta.

“ Eleanor

“ Eleanor Delves united so much beauty
“ of mind and person as early captivated the
“ son of her revered guardians, they saw with
“ inexpressible delight, perhaps before it had
“ been discovered by the parties themselves,
“ that a mutual passion was beginning to take
“ possession of their hearts, and even in in-
“ fancy planned the union of their hands,
“ when time should have ripened inclination
“ into a steady attachment. With this dar-
“ ing object in view, particular care was ta-
“ ken to inspire them with a similarity of
“ sentiment, that served as they grew up to
“ link them more closely together. Lord
“ Talbot was lively, Eleanor sedate; he
“ active, she composed, yet by the manage-
“ ment of those who conducted them, “ and
“ taught their young ideas how to shoot,”
“ they always met exactly at the same point,
“ for where the tide of his genius rushed
“ with vehemence, hers glided with serenity;
“ hand in hand they trod together the flow-
“ ery paths of alternate study and amuse-
“ ment. Augusta enjoyed their confidence,

“ she adored her twin sister, and was adored
“ by her; she loved Talbot for his own sake,
“ but she loved him a thousand times more
“ because he was beloved by her Eleanor.

“ The first infelicity which assailed this ten-
“ derly-united trio, was occasioned by lord
“ Bellhaven procuring a commission in the
“ army for his son. Just as they had all com-
“ pleated the sixteenth year of their age and
“ of their happiness, Talbot, though he had
“ chosen the profession of arms, grew melan-
“ choly at the thoughts of a separation from
“ the friends of his childhood; it was at this
“ moment that he felt how infinitely dear
“ Eleanor was to his affections. It was then
“ that he first took courage to speak to
“ her on the subject of his love; it was then
“ that they vowed eternal constancy to each
“ other, sanctioned by the approving voice
“ of those to whom they owed more than
“ filial obedience; and it was then that whilst
“ kneeling at the feet of those indulgent pa-
“ rents, they were assured their union should
be

“be ratified as soon as they became of a more
“proper age to distinguish between the e-
“motions which are sometimes the offspring
“of fancy, and the immutable impressions
“produced by a steady, warm, and rooted
“preference, which alone ought to conduct
“them to the altar. They were already re-
“spectively convinced that the sentiments
“they felt for each other were steady, warm-
“rooted, never to be eradicated, never to
“know a change, yet they submitted, they
“were satisfied; but they must be separat-
“ed, that terrible misfortune prevented them
“from being happy, and when a few months
“after he went with his regiment to Ame-
“rica, Eleanor wept without ceasing, and
“the tears of Augusta fell in sympathy
“with those of her second self, her pensive,
“her beloved sister.

“*Presentiment* is a sort of messenger
“which fate sends to inform the children
“of sensibility, when affliction hovers in-
“visible over their heads ready to make a

“prey of their dearest hopes, not for the
“purpose of contending with its decrees,
“which are inevitable, but rather to prepare
“them for its reception; such *Presentiments*
“were those which visited the hearts of
“Eleanor and Augusta, soon after the em-
“barkment of Lord Talbot; it whispered
“that the summer sky of their felicity,
“which a separation from that dear youth
“had before intersected with clouds, was
“going to be totally overcast by storms
“that would fall in torrents to crush the
“gayest of their expectation; they attended
“to the warning, they complained to each
“other of the weight that oppressed their
“spirits, but did not suspect from what
“source this presaged misfortune would
“arise.

“They had staid that year later in Lon-
“don than usual, to indulge the lovers
“with the longest possible moment they
“could enjoy the society of each other,
“and after the final interview had taken
“place

“ place in conformity to the wishes of Elea-
“ nor, they hastened their return to Castle
“ Talbot, where she might indulge in all
“ the luxury of unbroken solitude, a situa-
“ tion for which she now ardently pant-
“ ed.

“ Whilst her bosom heaved with sighs,
“ and her eyes were yet moistened with the
“ dews of regret for her separation from her
“ affianced husband, that tempest which
“ the foreboding souls of the twin sisters
“ had felt at a distance, approached them
“ in the form of death, and lady Bellhaven
“ became its victim; another so amiable
“ he could never find, but in Eleanor her-
“ self, on her too he seemed to have fixed
“ his grasp, and she most probably would
“ have attended the spirit of her adopted
“ mother to the regions of bliss, if compas-
“ sion for the dear survivor of this inesti-
“ mable pair had not retarded her flight, it
“ was only to administer to the griefs of
“ lord Bellhaven that could have roused her.

“to a state of activity; she saw him stagger
“under the blow that had laid low the
“partner of his heart, she raised herself to
“support him, and in the ocean of his sor-
“rows her own woes were swallowed up.

“What dreadful changes had happened
“in this family of love, joy, and harmony,
“when at the end of a year Talbot rejoined
“it; his beloved mother dead, his adored
“Eleanor almost a spectre, his revered fa-
“ther from the finest of dispositions, from
“the strongest of, all understandings, re-
“duced to peevishness, and a sort of whim-
“sical disease, nearly approaching to the
“gates of insanity. It was to this cruel
“disorder, to which many future misfor-
“tunes were owing. His affectionate chil-
“dren endeavoured to conceal his malady
“from the world, but they could not
“hide it from themselves. He aided to
“hold a bandage over the eyes of his visi-
“tors, as well as his servants, either by
“observing before them strict silence, na-
“turally

“turally attributed to the melancholy of
“which he was yet sensible for the loss of
“his lady, or by so strict a caution in ar-
“ranging the few words that he occasionally
“uttered as to make the alteration impene-
“trable to common observation, but when
“in the presence only of his son, or his two
“wards, his fancy roved unguided by any
“thing like rationality, and a thousand
“times in a day did he poniard the hearts
“of the most faithful lovers that ever ex-
“isted, by as often declaring he would ne-
“ver unite them.

“Two long years they waited patiently,
“always hoping that time, assisted by the
“knowledge of doctor Rowney, would ef-
“fect a salutary cure on the imagination
“of their respectable, their beloved, their
“pity-moving father, whose health had not
“been shaken, though his mind was des-
“troyed. Doctor Rowney was many years
“the friend as well as the physician of
“Lord Bellhaven, he was now prevailed

" on to take up his entire residence in
" the family; he no longer entertained any
" doubt but that his patient's disorder was
" established for life, he felt the situation of
" lord Talbot and Eleanor, he saw them
" sinking under disappointment, he saw
" them pining with grief, he persuaded
" a private union, and they were unit-
" ed.

" The ceremony was performed with so
" much secrecy, that the clergyman who
" officiated, the friend who projected it, and
" the sister who rejoiced in it, were alone
" privy to the happiness of the young cou-
" ple. How did this dear connexion re-
" verse the complexion of every object at
" Castle Talbot; notwithstanding its noble
" master still continued under the influence
" of the strangest chimeras, sadness was
" banished from the countenance, and
" gloom from the hearts of its inhabitants.
" Lord Bellhaven could neither bear the
" absence of his children, or permit them
" to

“to talk to him on the subject of their
“marriage, which always occasioned them
“to appear before him under the impres-
“sion of a deadly melancholy; restrained
“only from the fear of giving him pain,
“they now no longer importuned him to
“bestow on them the blessing they had se-
“cured to themselves; hymen gilded their
“prospects, joy illumined their souls, their
“whole time was chearfully dedicated to
“sooth the imaginary evils of their dear
“fanciful father, whose disorder neverthe-
“less had so rapidly increased, that when
“lady Talbot found herself likely to be a
“mother, doctor Rowney assured them
“that should the intelligence through any
“channel reach lord Bellhaven, his nerves
“were in so irritable a state, that madness
“must unavoidably ensue. What a terri-
“ble sentence! to sacrifice the privilege of
“parents or to be the means of a more
“dreadful sacrifice to their own revered
“parent. Was it not possible, they asked
“doctor Rowney, to find out a mid-way

“between the two extremes? None, he replied, that can be steered with safety; I am terrified not only for the senses but the life of your father, if he should meet with the smallest subject for agitation; better conceal the consequence of your marriage, as you have done the marriage itself, than risk a stake of so much magnitude; his advice was followed, Eleanor presented her lord with a son, who before he had been twice pressed in the arms of his parents, under the name of Delves, was conveyed”——The papers dropped from my hands, and I exclaimed,

C H A P.

C H A P. XXV.

The Exclamation.

“IT is I then that am the son of this divine mother, this glorious father, who would never have resigned me, but to the most noble of motives. Oh God! and shall I never see that mother, whose soul was capable of so great a sacrifice! My father! where is my father!”

C H A P.

C H A P. XXVI.

Exemplification.

THE door of the anti-chamber opened softly, Sir Edward Eveline surprised me on my knees, I could not support the full tide of ideas that impetuously overwhelmed me; I had sunk on the floor and rested my head on a chair; at the sound of his voice, I rose hastily, his arms were open to receive me.

“Every thing tells me,” said he, “that
“the mystery is unraveled, that you know
“Lord Talbot is your father, Lord Bell-
“haven your grandfather, Lady Eveline
“your

“ your aunt, and what I by her means, have
“ the honour to call you my dearest, my
“ amiable nephew.”

“ Mysterious providence !” cried I. It
was all that I could utter, as I hung upon
his neck and bedewed his hands with my
tears.

“ Compose yourself my dear boy, a trial
“ awaits you that will require all the stock
“ of fortitude you can assume, though not
“ just now ; your grandfather is made ac-
“ quainted with the circumstances of your
“ birth, his joy is strong, but his body is fee-
“ ble, they have not agreed well together,
“ he is anxious to embrace, to acknowledge,
“ to bless you, and nothing except the au-
“ thority of doctor Rowney could restrain
“ his impatience. It is he who has laid a
“ prohibition on any further exertion on
“ the part of his patient, until the faculty
“ have held their second consultation.”

“ This,”

"This," said I, "is only the sentence of
"a doctor."

"True," replied Sir Edward, "but in
"cases of life and death, it is as absolute as
"that of a judge; I cannot quarrel with
"your impetuosity, because it is natural,
"and not unamiable, considering the rever-
"ence, the tender reverence your heart
"must adopt for a parent so good, so un-
"fortunate as Lord Bellhaven."

"It is always thus," cried I, "that I
"am ever offending, and you never tired
"of forgiving my errors; I cannot describe
"what are the feelings by which I am so
"painfully, so pleasingly tortured, my
"whole soul is dissolved in affection for
"those unknown parents, yet loses nothing
"of the filial, the fond respect it owes to
"you, to my dear aunt, to Mr. Darcy. I
"will be manageable, I will not any more
"desire to cast myself at the feet of my
"grandfather, until I am permitted to do
"so—

“so—but when shall I throw myself into
“the arms of my father?”

“That is yet uncertain,” he replied,
“an express is sent to Lord Talbot, he may
“be here in a week, it may be a fortnight
“before you see him, but when he does
“come, Oh Delves! the sight of him will
“repay you for all your present anxiety, he
“is the first, the best of human beings, and
“his love for you can only be equalled by
“my own.”

“I must have seen him then?”

“He has seen you more than once, and
“is persuaded that when he makes himself
“known, you will find it no difficult task
“to yield him the duty and affections of a
“son; the fruits of maturity must repay
“him for having abstained from the enjoy-
“ment which the first blossoms of your in-
“fancy would have afforded him.”

“Yes,”

“ Yes,” said I, “ with energy, the whole
“ of my life shall be devoted to him, and
“ if his situation should ever require such
“ a sacrifice as he has made to my grand-
“ father, fired by the example he has set
“ me, I would tear myself from the dear-
“ est object on earth, to preserve him from
“ danger ;—but tell me Sir Edward, my
“ dear Sir Edward, pray tell me when I
“ peruse the remaining pages of this preci-
“ ous manuscript, will it inform me of any
“ traits, by which I may discover when
“ and where I have seen this already be-
“ loved father ?”

“ They will give you no satisfaction on
“ that point,” replied Sir Edward. “ It
“ would be robbing Lord Talbot of well-
“ earned happiness, to wrest from him the
“ privilege of removing the mask that has
“ hitherto concealed him from your know-
“ ledge.—No my dear boy, there is none
“ who can have a right to supersede his
“ lordship in the exquisite transports by
“ which

“ which nature will discover herself in the
“ first glance, the first embrace, the first
“ half formed expressions, that announces
“ you to each other.”

My heart was convinced, but my curiosity burnt with redoubled ardour, and although assured I should meet with nothing that would gratify it in the manuscript, I nevertheless asked permission of Sir Edward to finish the reading of it. He made me point out to him the sentence at which I had arrived, when either my own feelings, or his presence interrupted my researches. We were both standing, his hand rested on my shoulder, and I shewed him that I left off at that place which spoke almost in the same line of my birth, of my removal, of my being pressed in the arms of my parents, and of my being banished from them.

“ If I suffer you,” said he, withdrawing the papers from my grasp, “ to pursue
“ this

"this business further at present, your mind
"will be too much softened, when it should
"be best fortified; I know the moving
"powers of her whose hand has traced
"these characters, I shall therefore keep
"them for your inspection; at a more dis-
"tant period when the tears you shed over
"the memory of an amiable mother will
"not interfere to steal from your excellent
"grandfather, those which are now only
"due to himself."

"Ah!" cried I, "if indeed you fear to
"trust me with the papers, will you not at
"least inform me what produced all those
"wonders in which my fate seems to have
"been involved, from the hour that gave
"me life to that which rendered it valua-
"ble;—your protection and the maternal
"tendernefs of my beloved aunt?"

"I shall do so," replied Sir Edward,
"sit down, propose to me whatever ques-
"tions

"tions you please, and I will answer them
"faithfully."

"Was it in giving me existence that my
"mother forfeited her own?"

"No, she died of a decline several months
"after she had given you to the world."

"And never—did she never,"—my utterance failed, sobs choaked its passage,—my heart beat violently.

"I understand what you would ask,—yes,
"you were privately conveyed to her, she
"embraced, she blessed you, she prayed
"you might never disgrace your origin,
"her prayers ascended to heaven, and the
"petition of them has been granted."

Dinner was just then announced, I did not feel sorry for the interruption, we sat down to table, our meal was a solitary one, we saw nothing of doctor Rowney till the
cloth

cloth was removed, when he left his patient only for a moment to tell us that he slept quietly, and that some of his worst symptoms had considerably abated. Sir Edward complained to him that I had eat little or nothing. He felt my pulse, and advised my lying down. His agitation has produced some fever, said he, a few hours rest will restore him. I contended the point as long as I could, yet was at last forced to submit, on condition that I should be awakened before the consultation took place; these conditions were promised but not complied with, they made me swallow a cordial, and my sleep was prolonged, much beyond the limits of nature's own prescribing.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXVII.

A short Review of Juvenile Occurrences.

"IT is twelve o'clock," said Sir Edward, whom I saw sitting by the side of my bed when I awoke the next morning, "I have been alarmed at your sleeping so long, but if it has refreshed you I am satisfied."

My ideas were at first so much confused, that I answered him with extreme incoherence, which though only the effects of a too profound sleep procured by art, seemed to terrify my kind uncle, who was dispatching his servant to desire the immediate attendance

tendance of doctor Rowney, when having come to my recollection I prevented him, begged his pardon for the error, into which my stupidity had led him, assured him of my perfect health, enquired after Lord Bellhaven, what I had to hope or fear from the sentence of his physicians, and expressed my impatience to be admitted to his awful presence.

Sir Edward caught my hand, and said gently, pressing it between his own, “conquer if possible my dear child, that constitutional warmth, which early in life occasioned you many inconveniencies, which I have always tried to correct, but never shall succeed in my endeavours to rectify, unless you lend me your assistance; in the present circumstances, it is more particularly incumbent on you to resist the impetuosity of your passions, the indulgence of them, however amiable, would be injurious to your grandfather, and might be fatal to
“yourself,

“yourself, this disorder of the mind may
“be communicated to the body ; ah ! be-
“loved Delves, think how many there are
“for whose felicity you are accountable,
“whose very lives are wrapped in your
“safety ; the least indisposition that attacks
“you, inspires me with terrors, I feel for
“Lord Bellhaven, for Talbot, for Augusta,
“I feel for them all, and I also feel for my-
“self as intrusted with their dearest trea-
“sure, in which I am no small sharer,—
“for all our sakes will you not exert your-
“self in repressing the ardours of a disposi-
“tion so threatening to our best hopes, our
“fondest expectations ?”

Penetrated to the soul with so much
goodness, I resigned my will, my wishes,
my very thoughts, to the disposal of this
tender guardian, and received without mur-
muring the interdiction he brought me
from the faculty, that I was not to see my
grandfather until their next visit, nor even
then unless his lordship should be found in

a state of less irritation; to this sentence, added Sir Edward, Lord Bellhaven has assented; the same reason by which he is influenced, should influence you; there are hopes entertained that it is possible he may recover, and he now wishes to preserve a life which has been doubly endeared to him since he has known the felicity of having a grandson descended from his beloved Eleanor.

Sir Edward had ordered breakfast to be brought to my chamber, nor would permit me to get up, though I continued to assure him that I never found myself better. Having at length prevailed on him to consent that I should rise, he left me to visit Lord Bellhaven, with whom he remained a considerable time; and the rest of the day, though it appeared a very long one, he most agreeably filled up by recounting the chief events of my history, with which I was before unacquainted.

Such

Such parts as appertained to the decease of my mother and to my father's misery on the occasion, which afterwards when allowed to read it in the language of Lady Eveline, I found to be pathetic even to torture; those he passed slightly over, but on every other subject, satisfied my enquiries with minuteness, which although highly interesting to the hero of his own tale, may with propriety be very much curtailed for the benefit, or rather the information of such readers as he is ambitious of pleasing. It is therefore that he chuses sometimes to put the connecting events of his history into a dress of peculiar shortness, in preference to the flowing robes of eloquence in which they were presented to him by Sir Edward Eveline.

As it was necessary, for reasons already known, that my birth should be carefully concealed until that period arrived when it might be revealed to my grandfather without prejudice to a life so precious, it was

also necessary that certain persons should be appointed to the guardianship of my infancy; Papa Owen was much esteemed in the family, not only for the talent of writing, but for the simplicity of his manners, the rectitude of his heart, the evenness of his temper, and perhaps for the singularity of his figure. He alone was intrusted with the domestic secret, and provided every thing for my reception in Wales, to which country he was more attached than any other; this was done long before I made my appearance, and it being likewise proper that one female should be taken into the contrivance, he was consulted as best knowing their several dispositions on which of the household this confidence should devolve, who immediately decided in favour of Winifred, because she was a steady maiden whose silence might be depended on, and because she had promised to become his servant whenever he retired to enjoy the sweets of independence. The whole plan thus settled, I was privately conveyed from under the paternal

ternal roof, to Papa Owen's snug habitation; how I afterwards conducted myself, is it not written in the first chapters of this book.

"Your father," said Sir Edward, "fetch-
"ed you himself from Wales to gratify in
"her last moments the wife he adored, and
"your visit was so contrived, as to render
"the motive of it unsuspected; you were
"attended by your nurse, who carried you
"back to your adopted father, at a mo-
"ment when the grief of your real father
"had nearly conducted him to the tomb of
"his departed treasure; time, aided by the
"conscious reflection of having performed
"all his duties, restored him to composure,
"of which health is generally the attendant;
"the rooted affection he ever evinced for
"the best of parents, made him conquer
"the difficulties that opposed its exer-
"tions, he attended him personally, footh-
"ed his diseased mind which would admit
"of no other management, the smallest
M 3 "contradiction

“ contradiction threw him into agonies the
“ most terrifying, yet for the space of thir-
“ teen years, he continued to receive the
“ occasional visits of a numerous acquaint-
“ ance, and to behave so rationally for the
“ few hours they remained his guest, that
“ though every body wondered at his strange
“ seclusion from the world, nobody surmised
“ the cause ; but for this unfortunate decep-
“ tion, some part of that caution in respect
“ to yourself, might have been relaxed, the
“ strictness with which the secret has been
“ preserved proceeded from fear, the fear
“ that if there had been more confidants of
“ your birth, as long as your grandfa-
“ ther would admit all sorts of company,
“ some of them would be the means of
“ communicating what it would be fatal
“ for him to know ; it was a dread of this
“ misfortune which made him so carefully
“ conceal himself from a son doubly endear-
“ ed to him by nature, and the memory of
“ his beloved Eleanor.”

C H A P. XXVIII.

More explanatory Pages.

“**L**ORD Talbot,” continued my uncle,
“though forced seemingly to abandon, was very far from neglecting you;
“besides the confidence he reposed in the
“honest-hearted man, who you considered
“as your father, for the care he would
“take of your infancy, as well as perfectly
“satisfied with Winifred’s attention to your
“health and person, he had nevertheless a
“friend, whom he prevailed upon to take
“you under his protection; can you not
“guess who it is I mean?” added he.

“ Yes, certainly,” I replied, “ it must be
“ Mr. Darcy, none but my father or your-
“ self, can ever have loved me as he has
“ done.”

“ Indeed,” he rejoined, “ you are mis-
“ taken : Mr. Darcy is very well known,
“ and very worthily honoured with the
“ esteem of Lord Talbot ; nay his frequent
“ excursions to Wales, I believe, was almost
“ on your account ; he too was in the se-
“ cret, but dear as you was to him, both
“ for your own, and the sake of your pa-
“ rents, yet it did not suit his convenience
“ to reside constantly near you ; this was a
“ task of friendship reserved for Colonel
“ Godolphin, with whose family your edu-
“ cation commenced.”

At the name of Godolphin, my whole
soul was put in motion, and at the recol-
lection of those sweet hours, when Agnetta
was all my own, I felt sick at heart, my
eyes grew dim ; I started up ; I staggered
to

to the window, pretending to have seen some object on the lawn, that had suddenly attracted my notice ; I threw up the sash, and the air brought me a little to my senses. I would have died, rather than have disclosed my own weakness, and the triumph of Lady Charles Harley. Oh God, at that moment how did I hate her husband !

I saw Sir Edward smile as I returned again and re-seated myself by his side, he took no notice of my manœuvre, but went on as if the conversation had not suffered any interruption. He next informed me, that being intimate with Lord Talbot, he had many opportunities of seeing my aunt, that he loved her for her charms, and adored her for her virtues, but was in despair at the seeming impossibility of obtaining her hand. Lord Bellhaven's consent, in his then whimsical state, could not be hoped for ; and like her sister, she would have yielded up her life, her love, her every happiness, to the gratitude she owed him.

This alliance was hardly more desired by themselves, than by my father, because if it could be accomplished, it was agreed, that the new married couple, should take me under their immediate protection ; a thousand efforts were made to bring about an event, on which the felicity of so many individuals depended, but all were alike unsuccessful, until Doctor Rowney hinted to my grandfather, that a mutual affection he feared had taken place, between Miss Delves, and Lord Talbot ; the very first suggestion of such a misfortune, produced the most alarming consequences ; his ravings were intolerable, but as soon as they had in some degree subsided, my aunt fell at his feet, as was before concerted, presenting herself as the sacrifice to his peace of mind, by giving up all thoughts of his son, and accepting Sir Edward Eveline for her husband.

This lucky stratagem, the only one that could probably have been effectual, produced

duced a train of consequences the most delightful. Lord Bellhaven not only consented to Sir Edward's marriage with his ward, but hurried on the match with such rapidity, as kept pace with the impatience of all parties. My father chose to be absent, whilst the preliminaries were arranging, and did not return, till after the union was completed, when he had the happiness of seeing them depart for Wales, to take under their charge the little rascal, who about that very time had commenced his travels, under no other director than governor Trimbush.

To make their expedition assume the form of pleasure, these dear guardians repressed their eagerness, and instead of setting out post, travelled in stile, with splendid equipages ; a princely suit, and full directions from my father, for the whole plan of their proceeding, as soon as they had got me into their possession ; one of its most striking features, was, that I should be

shown by them to my grandfather on our way to Eveline Lodge, merely to try what effect the sight of me might have on the tender heart, but clouded reason of his own beloved and compassionate parent; he could not witness the interview; he owned he had not resolution to support it, and withdrew himself from the Castle, at the time when we were expected to arrive there.

Sir Edward and Lady Eveline alighted at the house of Colonel Godolphin, the better to conceal the motive of their journey, intending to carry me off privately; they had dispatched a note to Papa Owen, that he should be there to meet them and bring me with him; he obeyed their summons in part, he conveyed his own person thither, it was all he could do, the son of Lord Talbot, and the heir of Bellhaven, being just then particularly engaged in a sort of knight errantry, perhaps less honourable than that embraced by the antient sons of chivalry,
yet

yet altogether as useful, for, if I was not relieving distressed young damsels, fighting dragons, and contending with Genii, I was comforting an old dame, fighting against the enemies of her repose, and disenchanting the bewitched.

Whoever is travelling through the road of life, possesses in general the happy knack of painting his own prospects, wherefore no object is introduced which may foretel crosses and disappointments. It might have been better for Sir Edward and Lady Eveline, if they could have foreseen that I had made my elopement, than to be told when they expected to hold me in their arms, that I had ran away, been pursued, but could no where be found. It may be as easy to count the falling drops of a hasty shower, as to number the tears this dreadful relation drew from the eyes of my tender aunt, which nothing could have dried up, but the appearance of Alexander, who had no sooner assured them that the young gentleman,

tleman, for whom they made their lamentations, was safe and in good keeping, than joy superseded sorrow, and in the wildness of its language, many expressions were dropped ; some of which in a calmer moment, it was feared might be too well understood by the honest soldier, and he was sworn to all sorts of secrecy, before he was rewarded for his good offices with a place about my person.

Alexander gave a plain simple narrative of how he had met with me, the opinion he had formed of my gentility, and his resolution to carry the information of my present situation to Colonel Darcy ; when he found by my speaking of that gentleman, that I was well known to him ; the only deviation he made from truth, in the whole of his recital, was when he spoke of the landlord with whom he had left me in pledge for his reckoning, as well as for the horse, which without permission, he had taken from the stables. On this man he bestowed

ed all the ornaments of hospitality, and at the time that he had turned me out of doors, was averring to Lady Eveline, that I should be taken as much care of in his absence, as if I was under the roof of my own father ; which false account fitted the mind of her Ladyship to remain the guest of Colonel Godolphin a few days, in order to lay their plans, refresh themselves, and have their carriages repaired ; in the mean time the figure of Alexander had undergone so compleat a metamorphosis, that when by a few hours he preceded the family, neither the landlord or his wife knew him again ; nor should I have penetrated through his disguise, when he surpris'd me in the cottage of mother Jenkins, unless he had revealed himself more by his expressions than by his appearance.

With my history from this period, until my removal to Oxford, none of my readers are unacquainted ; of my extravagant conduct, during the few months I remained
at

at College, they have also had some specimens, but perhaps they do not surmise that Alexander's Jew friend was a creature of the imagination, or that owed my recall, as well as the last remittance from Sir Edward, to my faithful esquire's personal representation of the extreme misery I was plunged into, by the demanded loan of three hundred pounds, of which I did not possess three hundred shillings.

“Your father,” said Sir Edward Eveline,
“set no bounds to your expences, nor was
“I at first much concerned at your expen-
“dition in squandering the many, and con-
“siderable sums of money remitted to you. I
“could trust to the assurances of your tutor,
“that they were not lavished on your own
“vices, and as long as you employed them to
“the purposes of benevolence, however mis-
“taken the objects, I gave you credit, even
“for your credulity ; but some anonymous
“scribbler, treacherously assassinated your
“character ; I treated such information
“with

“ with the contempt it deserved, it was
“ then that I sent you a fresh supply, under
“ a blank cover, and that I might judge of
“ your economical management. I soon
“ after called upon you for a loan, which it
“ was not in your power to make; and if
“ this circumstance gave me some trouble,
“ the ingenious confession it drew from you
“ occasioned a much higher degree of pleasure, but before your letter arrived, Alexander in a state of desperation anticipated your generous confidence, pleaded your cause with honest warmth, and called over in rank and file, an army of virtues, more numerous than I believe with all your good qualities have inlisted under your banner; he painted you an angel of light, without one dark shade to heighten the portrait, or give it the stamp of nature. I paused between the very different accounts I had so lately received, balancing the partiality of a faithful domestic, against the malice of a secret enemy, and took the resolution of
“ requesting

“requesting your company until I had
“written to your father, intending to ad-
“vise him, that you should rather make the
“tour of Europe, than return any more to
“the University ; where with the best in-
“clinations in the world, you might not be
“always able to keep yourself out of incon-
“venient situations.”

I kissed the hand of this dear guardian,
and if there is eloquence in silence, I must
have been eloquent in my expressions of ac-
knowledgements.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXIX.

Wholesome if not Palatable.

I EXPECTED to have been presented to my grandfather after the consultation, and waited for the physician's arrival, with such visible anxiety, that Sir Edward, who watched every turn of my countenance, seemed to partake of my torturing situation. Doctor Rowney seldom left the apartment of his patient ; if he joined us for a moment, the intelligence he brought with him was unsatisfactory, he never varied in his opinion, that the termination would be fatal, nor scrupled to declare his disapprobation of protracting an interview,
the

the very expectation of which disturbed his Lordship's repose, agitated his spirits, and increased his fever; yet he withstood the strongest intreaties of introducing me, unless approved by his brethren of the faculty; for whose decision, I waited with as much impatience as if my own existence had depended on their sentence.

They arrived;—they consulted;—they condemned;—but though unanimous, that no hope remained, still in their wisdom they would have put off the interview, for which my heart panted; they saw me in despair; they pocketed their fees and departed.

“Now,” said Doctor Rowney, as soon as their backs were turned, “I drop my
“physical character which has hitherto held
“me amenable to the rules of my profession,
“and assuming that of friendship, unfet-
“tered by forms, I shall freely advise, that
“the last moments of Lord Bellhaven be
“rendered as easy as possible, and that the
blessing

“ blessing which his small remains of
“ strength has been exhausted to implore,
“ be no longer withheld from him ; there
“ is no time to be lost,” added he, “ and if I
“ have your permission, I will go to prepare
“ him for a weight of felicity, which if de-
“ ferred a few hours later, he will be much
“ less able to support.”

Sir Edward highly approved the proposition, they went out together, and I was left alone, though not solitary ; my imagination being crouded with images of different complexions, the fairest of which was certainly Lady Charles Harley, and I asked myself, now that I was in a situation to demand her hand, if I would do so supposing her Lord should make his exit ? I presented her to my view, in the bud of beauty, in the very act of forming that favourite, but fatal garland, which first taught me to love, and told me I was beloved ; I saw the bud unfold, I retraced the grateful sweetness it shed upon me, whilst yet un-
fullied

sullied by the daubing of art. I gave her every possible chance for stepping out of her weeds, if ever she should step into them ; but after all, my heart answered the question I had put to it, in the negative. No, it replied, I never will be the property of any man's widow !

Sir Edward returned to conduct me to my grandfather, " soon you will be called " upon," said he, " to represent the Lord " of this mansion, the spirit of its present " master is impatient to take its flight, " and only hovers round its frail tenement, " until you have received the paternal blessing ; there is nothing very frightful in " seeing a good man expire," added he, on perceiving me tremble, " it is only when " guilt struggles with death, that the contest is terrible."

At this awful moment every frivolous idea, every object that had before occupied my thoughts, even love and Agnetta, fled
before

before the terrors with which I was overwhelmed as approaching the presence of that parent, from whom I must be separated at the instant I was restored to him, I held by the arm of Sir Edward, and as he led me to the side of the bed, my soul was pierced by the half suppressed groans, which issued from within the curtains, "ah," exclaimed I, mentally, "what a winding up of human grandeur is here ! whether peers or beggars, all are alike the children of disease, and the victims of death."

I made this observation, whilst my trembling steps were arrested, by a signal from Doctor Rowney to keep out of sight ; the agitation of his patient having brought on a spasm, which convulsion he waited to subdue, before he would permit me to approach ; at length it subsided, I heard myself called upon in a voice muffled, and almost indistinct. "I shall never," it said, "never see my grandson, you will let me die without beholding him."

"He

"He is here my good Lord," answered the friendly physician.

"Where! where!" cried he in a raised tone.

I had dropped on my knees, and laid my face on his burning hand, which I covered with my tears.

A silence full of excruciating feelings, took place of expression; Doctor Rowney presented a cordial to his patient, and Sir Edward forced me to swallow some water; with their assistance, my grandfather lifted himself on his pillows, and casting his arms around me, pressed me to his heart, and we mingled our sobs together; he tried to articulate, the effort produced new struggles; they dragged me from his hold, and would have conveyed me out of the apartment; I resisted their endeavours, but retired to a distant corner, where resting my forehead against the wainscoat, I wept plentifully.

Sir

Sir Edward endeavoured to sooth the violence of my sorrow, by the most tender and sensible admonitions. “ I neither
“ blame, or applaud,” said he, “ the emotions you can no more be accountable for
“ than it is in your power to prevent them ;
“ but although the language of nature will
“ make itself heard, reason may attune it
“ to moderation ; and I shall not easily forgive the want of exertion on your part,
“ to use that understanding of which you
“ are master, in order to promote by your
“ composure, the tranquillity of Lord Bellhaven, and preserve to yourself that portion of health so necessary to the felicity
“ of your father, as well as to the happiness
“ of your friends ; these tumultuous passions
“ are unfriendly to the constitution, by
“ which they generated, therefore——”

He was interrupted—my grandfather had recovered his speech, and called vehemently upon Lord Talbot. I ran towards him, flung myself on his neck, and cried out,

“ Oh my father, the blessing you would
 “ bestow on Lord Talbot, let it be conferred
 “ on his son, who loves you, honours
 “ you, would lay down his life for you.”

“ Merciful Creator, I thank thee !” said
 he, “ so would have spoken his father ! so
 “ would have spoken his mother ! her
 “ mortal image stands before me, her im-
 “ mortal form I shall again recognize in
 “ the bosom of her Saviour, and of my Sa-
 “ viour ! of her God, and of my God !”

“ Not yet ! Oh not yet !” I cried,; my
 tears streamed afresh, but I did not weep
 alone; Sir Edward and Doctor Rowney
 could not restrain their own.

The more apparently we were agitated,
 the more Lord Bellhaven's composure in-
 creased. “ Beloved son of my beloved Tal-
 “ bot,” said he, “ moderate your too eager
 “ desires for lengthening an existence, which
 “ has hitherto been the source of your mis-
 “ fortunes,

“fortunes ; but for my unhappy malady,
“but for the sacrifices of unexampled duty,
“of unprecedented filial affection, you
“would not have been exiled from the
“protection of the paternal roof, from the
“fostering care of——”

He paused, and breathed with so much difficulty, that Doctor Rowney requested his Lordship would at present make no further exertions ; and when able to speak again, he seemed to have forgot what it was that he had been saying, and only desired, that all his domestics might be summoned to his chamber. Sir Edward and the physician looked on each other, as disinclined to admit so many intruders ; the meaning of their looks was understood by my grandfather, he seemed irritated that his orders should be disputed, and said “if Talbot was
“present, he would not hesitate to obey
“me.”

His commands were executed without opposition ; the household were soon after assembled, when my grandfather announced me to them as the son of Lord Talbot, the heir of his honours, and the master to whom on his decease, and before the return of their Lord, they were required to transfer the obedience, the duty, the fidelity he had experienced in their long and faithful services ; they were afterwards permitted to kiss his hand, an honour they received on their bended knees, the expression of their sorrow was respectful, not loud, and before they retired, they paid me the homage which their expiring Lord had exacted.

The scene was short, but extremely pathetic, Lord Bellhaven said “ he was more
“ at ease, now that the interview with his
“ grandson was over, the transports of
“ which had been allied to torture, and
“ more satisfied in having established the
“ legitimacy of my birth in the presence of
“ so many witnesses, as must prevent its
“ ever

“ever being disputed by any other heir,
“should I happen to be deprived of my
“father, before he could return to ac-
“knowledge me in the face of the world.”

During the night he had many intervals of ease, which he employed in speaking of his son, of Lady Eveline, regretting their absence, praying for their happiness, instructing me, blessing all, and in giving directions for his funeral.

He ordered, that in six days after his decease, his body should be conveyed to Castle Talbot, there deposited by the side of his Countess, and large distributions made to the neighbouring poor, by the hands of my father or myself, the day following that of his interment. He only survived till seven o'clock in the morning, when he expired in my arms, as an infant falling asleep on the bosom of its nurse. May such, oh reader, be the end of thee, and of me, in

all but in his visitation of insanity, may we live and die like him !

CHAP. XXX.

Apology for the last Chapter.

IF I continue any longer in the strain of mournfuls, it may be well enough doubted from the evident difference in the stile of my first and last pages, whether all parts of this delightful History are written by myself, whereby calling its authenticity very much in question. I therefore after asking pardon for my presuming to introduce death so familiarly to circles where his presence is not desired, or his reception prepared for, humbly avow myself author of
the

the first, last, and every future chapter, promising to intrude no more such terrifying objects, but henceforth to draw a curtain between my fashionable readers, and old fashioned mortality.

C H A P. XXXI.

Honours compared to Roses.

MY father not arriving in time—but stop perhaps it may be expected that I should declare what were my feelings on parting with the name of Delves, in exchange for the title of Lord Talbot,—why in truth I was neither intoxicated or rendered savage by exaltation, my pleasure was meliorated by pain, the very means through

which I attained dignity, prevented me from extravagance in the possession of it, and other reflections on my early excursions, kept down my impatience, and held me within the bounds of humility ;—besides, having long supposed myself a *gentleman* without ever acknowledging any distinction between that and a *nobleman*, I was as little gratified by my new honours as a man who has a bunch of roses held to his nose, just as he has found a deficiency in that organ at which he might have imbibed their fragrance.

My father, as I was saying, not being arrived when the remains of my grandfather were to be removed for interment, and Sir Edward from the situation of my aunt not being able to make one of the party into Wales, doctor Rowney and I set out together in a post chaise, leaving the hearse to be followed by several coaches, filled with the late Earl's domestics.

Sir

Sir Edward left nothing to my inexperience, every thing was regulated by himself, nor did he leave us till the last moment. He had permitted me to send for Alexander who joined us the evening preceding our melancholy journey, and being quite as good a courtier, as he had hitherto evinced himself a soldier, he very well knew how to adapt his stile to the two extremes of condolence and congratulation; with a tear on one cheek, a grin on the other, he was sorry to see my honour's lordship in trouble, but he was glad to see my honour a Lord, though his whole generation had fallen in the scramble.

Tender, kind, and consoling, were the dear contents of the letter he brought with him from my beloved aunt; she lamented the death of my grandfather, as she would have done that of her own parent, but she bid me hope that the vacancy in my heart, would soon be filled up by a father who adored me, that by the time I should return

from performing the filial office on which I was embarking, she expected to present to me a new relation, for whom she bespoke some part of that tenderness I had shewn for its mother, and ended by saying, that when I thought proper to give her a niece, she was sure it would be such a one as she should love, for her own sake, as well as for mine.——Never, said I, kissing the letter, and placing it in my bosom, never my good mamma, never will I put you to the trial, Agnetta is married,——Delves will *never* marry.

Every thing being in readiness for our departure, I signified to Sir Edward that with his approbation I should like before I came back, to visit some of my old acquaintances, particularly Papa Owen, and his handmaiden Winifred. He readily assented, promising at my desire to send off an express the moment he should know of my father's arrival, and adding with a smile, let your first compliments be paid to
Colonel

Colonel Godolphin, and if you should happen to fall in love with his daughter, Lord Bellhaven will throw no impediments in the way of your union; Henrietta is formed to make you surrender that heart which your general indifference for the sex, rendered insensible to those of her elder sister.

What did I not feel at a charge so home, so ill founded, what burning blushes flew into my face to contradict the assertion, what strong evidences to the contrary might have been adduced from the hesitation with which I replied, that I had no desire, no expectation, no hope, to—to—to—profit by the indulgence of Lord Bellhaven,—I did not know,—I had never supposed that they were in Wales,—should I go beyond Castle Talbot,—I might to be sure give them a call, if it was not too much out of my way,—but,—and there I made a pause.

“ Out of your way my lord, how is that
“ possible ?” retorted Sir Edward, “ you
“ talk of visiting Owen, and if you have
“ not entirely forgot the situation of his
“ house, you must remember it is not two
“ hundred yards from the Colonel’s.”

“ But my dear sir, do you consider what
“ my impatience must be to see my fa-
“ ther ?”

“ I thought that affair had been set-
“ tled.”

“ Why yes, you was so good to say you
“ would send me the earliest intelligence,
“ but perhaps it might be more proper
“ that I—I—I—should.”

“ As you please,” said Sir Edward cool-
“ ly, only as Lady Charles Harley is in a
“ bad state of health, her father may take
“ it unkindly if you shew yourself in
“ Wales,

“ Wales, without at least sending to enquire
“ after them.”

All the blood that before had mounted into my face, rushed back to my heart; has “ she been long ill ?” I asked, striving after composure as a man strives for breath in the act of strangulation.

“ It is not very long since a decline has
“ been apprehended, and goat’s milk ad-
“ vised; you know they are a family of
“ love, so when Lady Charles accepted
“ her father’s invitation they would every
“ one of them accompany her, even the
“ lovely, lively Henrietta, who I must re-
“ peat, is a most charming woman, would
“ not be prevailed upon by all the joys of
“ dissipation, to remain in town when re-
“ tirement was thought necessary to the re-
“ covery of her sister.”

A decline,—goat’s milk,—retirement,—
Agnetta ill,—Agnetta dying,—Oh ! if she
would

would but live,—though I saw her no more,—though the wife of another,—yet I could bear it,—I could bear every misfortune except that death should prematurely crop that sweet blossom, which before it was half blown, I had so loved, so cherished, so adored,—these were my thoughts but my words had no relationship to them, my voice on the contrary acquired firmness, it was the firmness of despair, and I made Sir Edward believe that I should certainly endeavour to see the family, and hoped to bring him better tidings of Lady Charles Harley than he seemed to expect.

“Why, to confess the truth,” said he,
“my hopes are already sufficiently sanguine,
“I only desire you might confirm to me the
“good accounts I have lately received from
“her father respecting her ladyship’s pre-
“sent state of convalescence.”

In

In appearance I lost none of my characteristic indifference, I only said, "that it would give me pleasure to be the messenger of any event desired by him," although at the same time ready to cry out in transports and bless the tongue that had announced Agnetta in a state of convalescence.

"You are a very extraordinary young man," replied my uncle, with a scrutinizing look which sent my eyes to the ground, "you certainly like Lady Charles Harley too much, or too little, else how comes it that you take no personal interest in her recovery?—if too much, your conduct is noble, but if you cease to remember the Colonel and his family with kindness, it will be the only instance in which you have forgotten the friends of your youth, therefore the more unaccountable."

Guess

Guess if this appeal to my feelings served to revive my courage, on the contrary, I blundered out a very foolish defence, pleading I don't know what nonsense, as an excuse for my ingratitude to the Godolphins; "they seemed to care," I said, "as little for me, as I did for them, that I thought Lady Charles had used me extremely ill, when I met her at the opera; I accused her of vanity, of coquetry, of all the evil that ever entered into woman, for presuming to play off airs that arrogated to herself the power of tormenting me."

"You speak so fast," cried Sir Edward, smiling, "there is no comprehending you." I was sensible the charge was a true one, and smiling in my turn, I quitted both the subject and himself, to avoid further distressing interrogations.

C H A P. XXXII.

A great deal in a small Compass.

DOCTOR Rowney did not find me the agreeable travelling companion, on my return to Wales, that I had made myself to Sir Edward and Lady Eveline, when they forcibly conveyed me from it. I had no adventures to relate, no characters to draw, no questions to ask; the melancholy occasion of our journey, gave a colouring of reason to the sadness of my disposition, so that I was suffered to enjoy with few interruptions, a delightful silence which every moment grew more and more interesting, for in fact I was laying plans how I might gratify my senses with the sight of Agnetta
unseen

unseen by her, and unknown by the family.

We arrived at Castle Talbot some hours preceding the hearse and its attendants, when on jumping from the carriage, I found myself in the arms of Colonel Godolphin, the last man in the world I wished, or expected would be there to receive me; the warmth of affection with which I was used to behold him rekindled, as he pressed me to his heart. It was the father of Agnetta,—he had never offended me,—when he bestowed her on another, he knew not that he assassinated the soul of my happiness; all these ideas rushed at once upon me, overthrew all my counterfeit hardness, my head dropped on his shoulder, and I wept like an infant.

Mistaking the cause of my agitation, as doctor Rowney had done that of my silence, these two kind friends did and said every thing which came into their thoughts to
quiet

quiet my emotions ; under this error I sheltered my confusion, they supported me at the interment of my grandfather, and the next day assisted me to fulfil his charitable donations, by which a numerous poor were relieved from a state of anxious indigence to one of ease and comfort ; they paid the reverence due to the memory of their benefactor, I was a sharer in their prayers and their blessings, they were certainly registered in heaven, for on the same hour began to dawn the morn of my felicity.

“ I beg to be excused, it is impossible I should go with you,” said I, in answer to Colonel Godolphin’s importunities, that I would return with him and pass some days at his house.

“ I understand your lordship,” he replied, “ those who have loved Delves, must learn to revere Lord Talbot.”

“ Oh

“ Oh for the love of heaven,” I cried,
“ do not hate, do not despise, do not de-
“ grade me, do not render me below con-
“ tempt.” I covered my face with my
hands, and ran from him with an air of
desperation, that touched him with com-
passion; he followed me to the further end
of the room, and brought me to myself,
by a thousand affectionate expressions, as-
sured me he had spoken in jest, begged me
to forgive the pain he had caused me, and
renewed his entreaties that I would, accom-
panied by doctor Rowney, set out with him
the next morning, adding, “ that the sight
“ of me would cure his neighbour Owen of
“ the gout,—delight the heart of Mrs. Go-
“ dolphin,—renovate the spirits of Agnet-
“ ta,—find employment for Henrietta,—
“ and do honour to his son, my old school-
“ fellow, who having finished the labours
“ of study, had made some progress in the
“ art of politeness, as well as in the polite
“ arts,” besides, continued he, “ although
“ you cannot be interested for my daugh-
“ ter

“ter Harley, on her own account, yet for
“my sake, will you not sacrifice a little
“portion of your time, to give her the be-
“nefit of doctor Rowney’s advice?”

“Good God!” exclaimed I, being
thrown off my guard, by certain expres-
sions, which confused without relieving
me; “Good God, is it you sir, that can
“upbraid me with being uninterested in
“the health of Lady Charles Harley?”

“You are so irritable my young friend,”
replied the Colonel, “that I have always
“the ill fortune to put your feelings in mo-
“tion, I simply supposed you could not
“be particularly concerned for a person,
“who has not the honour of being known
“to your lordship.”—“Not know Lady
“Charles Harley!”—“You may possibly
“have seen, but I am sure you have never
“spoken to her.” “What” cried I, my
heart breaking, my cheeks flushing, and
eyes staring, “is not Ag——, is not Miss
“Godolphin—

“ Godolphin—the wife of ——” “ She is
“ the wife of no man,” interrupted her father, “ Lady Charles Harley is my daughter by a former marriage, whom you never saw, because she resided intirely with
“ her mother’s family, until about two years
“ ago, when we went to Italy, and brought
“ her from thence to bestow her on the
“ husband whom her own choice had selected out of several other English men
“ of fashion, who saw, and loved her at
“ Naples.”

Such a sudden flash of light falling on the benighted affections of a lover, ardent, forlorn, despairing, set fire to the gunpowder of my composition; I was never to act as other rational beings would have acted in my situation; I did not make declamations; I did not offer myself for a son-in-law; I did not ask his consent; I did not require any passport to the presence of my mistress; I did not so much as speak a word in reply to the father; but flew to the stables.

stables. I had before prepared for a ride round the environs of the castle; my boots were on, my horses ready, I vaulted into the saddle, not for an evening, but a whole night's excursion; not to examine the views about Castle Talbot, but to behold the adorable charms of my adorable Agnetta; the distance I had to travel, was sixty miles, over mountains, and over precipices. Impatience lent me her spur, from love I borrowed his wings, my horse as if animated by my wishes, performed such feats as would have put out of countenance the celebrated ghost of the present day, which has employed so many learned scholars to raise for the edification of students in the art of wonder-making. I sent my compliments to the gentlemen, with a request that when they were tired of being my guest at the castle, I hoped they would meet me at C——, to which place I was departing, on affairs that would not admit of a moment's delay; I also ordered Alexander to join me at the same time, and
taking

taking a groom for my guide, who was well acquainted with the road, I found myself at seven in the morning reconnoitring the well-known, and well-beloved gardens of Colonel Godolphin.

A workman who was going in at the gate by dint of a timely application to his sense of *feeling* made my passage to these elysian scenes even more easy than heretofore, when through a breach of my own making, I could enter at pleasure; I am sure the poor fellow thought me mad; I believe he repented letting me in, for he offered to give me back my money, if I would not stay to frighten the family, who often walked round the garden at an early hour. I heartily pardon his vulgar misconception; it must be a lover to understand the language of a lover; he therefore did not comprehend why, if in my senses I should throw my body on the wet grass; why kiss it with devotion. I did not say to him on *this* spot my first, my only love, placed the garland
on

on my head; on *this* spot she called me her dear Delves, with other explanatory notes, which might have let him into the secret, and have prevented him from following me every where, importunately desiring that I would go about my business, telling me at last that I must begone, because he saw the young lord's fine lady standing at the glass door, she would be out in a minute, he said, and he had heard say, she was terribly afraid of strangers. I got rid of him by declaring myself a friend of the family, which he could not dispute, as I ran from him towards the house, determined that my happiness, which had hitherto appeared but as a dream, should be either abolished, or confirmed by the evidence of a real, or by the confession of a fictitious character. Just then the words of H—— occurred to my memory. Dear and venerated prophet, I cried, thy prediction is verified, and the love I have so long nourished for Lady Charles Harley, was as you declared it, a shadow engendered by fancy.

She opened the glass door and stepped out upon the gravel terrace, at the further end of which I stood watching her motions.

C H A P. XXXIII.

Eclaircissement.

THE Lady who engrossed my attention was almost as lovely as Agnetta, and her cheeks which illness had overspread with lily whiteness, received no small advantage from the delicate confusion that terminated in rosey blushes, at hearing herself accosted by a man she did not know, with an abruptness for which perhaps there never had been any thing like a precedent, except of my own setting.

“ Are

“Are you really Madam, the daughter
“of Colonel Godolphin?”

“I am fir.”

“And are you indeed, Lady Charles
“Harley?”

“Certainly,—my father and my husband
“are both absent, but I am ready to hear,
“and when they return, to convey your
“commands to them.”

“Angel of mercy! say once more that
“you are the wife of Lord Charles!”

She smiled, and looking on me with
much expression, said, “from description I
“am tempted to believe you are ———.”
“Yes!” cried a sweet voice, but not the
voice of Agnetta,—“it is our own dear
“Delves! It is Lord Talbot!”—I turned
suddenly round; I could only see the figure

of Henrietta as she fled back into the house.

“Every thing is explained to my wishes,” said Lady Charles, presenting me her hand, “let me have the honour of conducting your lordship; I fear that giddy girl will too much alarm the gentle spirits of my sister, some caution should be observed at the meeting of such old friends as you have been.” Oh! what raptures did I imbibe from the few words she uttered, as we entered the room, where I had first seen her through the glass door. “Ah! then,” I cried, “Agnetta has not forgotten her Delves, if she feels, if it is necessary to guard her feelings, she will not be able to disguise them, she will no more have it in her power to freeze my soul with the semblance of icy indifference.” Again I heard Henrietta calling from an adjoining room for Lady Charles. Immediately suggesting the cause, why her presence was required,

required, impetuously I rushed by her, burst the door open, and fell at the feet of my angel, who like a lily overcharged with the dews which should only have administered refreshment, had sunk down into a chair, where reclining on the bosom of her sister flower, she remained without sense or motion.

A lady who can faint at pleasure, has very much the advantage of her who never faints but at the command of nature, because the one has only her own convenience to consult when she chuses to recover, the other must wait for permission; of this latter description was my adorable mistress, who in spite of my tears, cries, and entreaties, did not shew any signs of life for several minutes; but oh! reader, the earliest symptoms of her renewed existence, were dedicated to her transported lover. Henrietta perceiving her assistance less necessary would have flown to my arms, "wait a moment," cried I, repelling her with

my accustomed bluntness, "I love you as
 " well as I do myself,—but,—I love your
 " sister infinitely better than a thousand
 " selves.—Avaunt ! for these arms shall not
 " be open to you, until they have embrac-
 " ed their *dearer* treasure." "I am glad
 " to find you are not changed with your
 " fortune," said she, "for neither Agnetta
 " nor I would part with one Delves, for a
 " thousand Lord Talbots."

If I should ever meet with a divine
 able to delineate the joys of Heaven, I
 would make it worth his while to try his
 pencil with effect, on the innocent raptures
 of the scene which ensued ; it was the rap-
 tures of the blessed, angels assisted at it, and
 none but an inspired artist can represent
 it.

* * * * *

We met before eight, we had not break-
 fasted at twelve, we were not quite coherent
 till

till two, and it was four when we separated, the ladies to their toilets, I to visit Papa Owen.

I endured rather than relished the suffocating careffes with which I was received by mother Winifred, before she would let me pass to the apartment of her master, who bound hand and foot with flannels lay stretched on the bed at his full length; at every step that Winifred preceded me she never ceased to announce the dignity of his visitor. "Here is his lordship sir, the Lord Talbot, as exactly like our own dear little squire Delves, as one pea is like another, can't you rise a bit master, just to do your honours to his Lordship?"

"Pish woman!" cried Papa in a peevish accent, for which only the gout was accountable, and then added, "my dear lord, step forwards that I may feast my eyes upon your countenance, but take care my lord, your lordship must take great care

“ not to touch the bed cloaths, or even the
“ curtains, so pray my good lord please to
“ condescend a little to my infirmities, and
“ slide round by the wall. Oh! this in-
“ fernal gout, that will not let me present
“ even my hand to your lordship !” I begged he would be composed, and standing at the feet of his bed, gave him a faithful narrative of all that had befallen me, since we parted at Eton, concluding my half hour’s audience, by desiring that he would get well enough to assist at my nuptials with Miss Godolphin. He shook his head, bidding me be wise, until my father had declared himself, and given me leave to play the fool, “ for,” added he, “ to marry at
“ your age is not wisdom my lord ; it is
“ time enough to think of it, when you are
“ old and decrepid like me, and want a
“ wife to take care of you.” I turned back to tell him that he could not do better than follow the example of his own precept, and plight his vows to Winifred, for which advice the good creature loaded me
with

with thanks and blessings, till I could no longer hear the sound of her voice, all my senses being wrapped up in one idea, all my speed exerted to rejoin the idol of my soul's affection.

What a day of exquisite bliss! what a night of contemplative happiness, succeeded to the morn of my felicity, all was love, harmony and friendship; it was late when we parted, I had ordered a bed to be prepared for me in the town, whither I was conveyed in one of the family carriages. Had young Godolphin or Lord Charles Harley been at home to do the honours of the house, there I should certainly have taken up my rest, but they were out on a hunting party, so that decorum not permitting me the sweet indulgence, I made myself the best amends I could, by entering the breakfast parlour before the ladies had come out of their dressing rooms.

Mrs. Godolphin having no presentiment that I should make the visit to a family, without the personal introduction of her husband, whose return from Castle Talbot she did not expect for several days, had taken the opportunity to pass a short time with a sick friend, who lived at a considerable distance; had there been any vacuum in my wishes it would certainly have been filled with regret, for the absence of so dear, so maternal a friend, but in the presence of Agnetta, in the society of the three charming sisters, loving and beloved, I had nothing to regret, nothing to wish for;—my father—yes, I sometimes thought of my father. Sir Edward Eveline had announced that his¹⁹ approbation would follow my choice, and this was the only augmentation of which the fulness of my joy was capable.

All the absentees of the family my guest at Castle Talbot excepted, arrived at home before the hour of dinner; Mrs. Godolphin
loaded

loaded me with careffes; I renewed my school acquaintance with Lord Charles Harley, and discovered that the Colonel had not given me a partial misrepresentation of his son's improvements; our hearts were much more congenial than when we parted, and that friendship which would not link in our youth, cemented in our riper years.

C H A P. XXXIV.

The last but one.

BEFORE our corps was joined by the two gentlemen, I was not only accommodated with a bed out of the house, but also supplied with linen by my landlord,

for I had taken none with me ; who when the heart is in motion stops to make provision for the body, it thinks of nothing but its own pursuits, all other interest is left far behind ; every impediment was now removed, as to my convenience and appearance ; every night I slept under the same roof with the divine Agnetta, every day made a decent figure in the domestic circle, without having recourse to foreign assistance.

Surrounded by felicities for which I can find no expression, I was incapable of feeling regret though not insensible to surprise, which rapidly increased, when five days were elapsed without our seeing Colonel Godolphin or hearing from him, during which time I never separated from my party except when I stole out periodically for half an hour ; on the service of gratitude, my devoirs were due to Papa Owen, they were also due to Winifred, and poor must that soul be which will not give up one particle of its own gratification, to pay a
just

just debt of kindness that by accumulation has grown to a vast amount.

On one of those short visits my dear gouty Papa hinted that he should think more hereafter on the advice I had given him concerning Winifred, "for," said he, "if her superior excellencies in the great art of ease-giving were to get abroad in the world, I should certainly not be able to keep her to myself; there are a hundred infirm persons like me, who would not only give her their hand, but their eyes to be nursed and fed and flanneled as I am." I not only gave my consent but approbation to the premeditated wedding, telling him, I would unite to his little estate a field of twenty acres, as the lady's marriage portion; it belonged to the Colonel, and I knew on such an occasion he would let me become the purchaser. I did not stay to hear his acknowledgements, but as Winifred opened the door to let me out as well as to receive her usual fee of a squeeze

squeeze by the hand, I doubled the tender pressure, whispering in her ear, "that I should soon have the pleasure of saluting her by the name of Owen." Winifred replied, simpering, "she had heard some such a thing, but was sensible nevertheless of my lordship's good will," for she was sure he would never have done his duty if I had not first put it into his head, "and you know my dear, sweet lord, he could do no less for me, who have done so much for him, both in health and in sickness." I ran towards the Colonel's, laughing immoderately, and meant to have entertained my friends with the hymenial intelligence, if the appearance of Alexander coming to meet me, had not for the present driven it out of my thoughts to make room for enquiries.

"What has detained you so long at Castle Talbot,—where is the Colonel,—where is the doctor?"

"Please

"Please your lordship we have been
"waiting for a new recruit."

"What do you mean by a new recruit?"

"Please your honor, Mr. Darcy, with
"the other noble commanders, are march-
"ing in the rear, they will all be at head
"quarters in no time."

"Mr. Darcy!" I exclaimed, Mr. Dar-
"cy returned from the continent, Mr. Dar-
"cy in Wales!"

"As sure as my poor Nan is in heaven!
"your lordship had not forced a march
"more than an hour, when his honour sent
"word he should be at the castle in two
"days, so d'y e see my lord we waited for
"his joining, howsever he did not come
"till yesterday."

"Good God!" cried I, again interrupt-
ing him, "will there be no ebb in the tide
"of

“of my good fortune?”——something touched me behind, I turned round, and was instantly locked in the arms of Mr. Darcy himself; joy took from us both the power of utterance, I was the first to break silence, and said as he held me pressed to his bosom, with his eyes rivited on my face, “I am acknowledged by
“a noble father, a beloved mistress has
“been restored to me, but that bliss is the
“most exquisite of all others, which re-
“turns the friend of my infancy, the as-
“sistant guardian of my youth, to witness,
“and to partake of my felicity.”

As I spoke Mr. Darcy held me closer to his heart, then retreated a little, examined me more attentively, as I did him, and asked if I had seen my father? “No,” said I,
“but when I have seen him I shall never
“love him quite as well as I do you, or
“Sir Edward Eveline; he forsook me,
“you have never forsaken me.” “It was a
“sacrifice made to duty, to compassion, to
“filial

“ filial affection,” he replied ; “ in foregoing
“ the dear delights of a father, the father of
“ such a son, he consented to his own mi-
“ fery.”

I assured Mr. Darcy, that I very highly
venerated the character of Lord Bellhaven,
and that I was disposed to love him with
all my heart, whenever he would give me
the opportunity ; I had observed him to look
extremely pensive, and now for the first
time, I took notice that he was in the
deepest mourning, I wished to know for
whom he wore it ; I asked him the ques-
tion, but started when he replied, “ I wear
“ it for Lord Bellhaven,” adding, “ what is
“ the inference you draw from that con-
“ fession ?” My whole soul vibrated, the
possibility that the fondest of all fond hopes
might be realized, crimsoned my cheeks,
sent sparks of fire from my eyes, and made
me exclaim, “ are you not my father !” “ I
“ am ! I am !” he cried, equally agitated,
“ I am the thrice blessed father of my
“ amiable

“ amiable Talbot.” I heard no more; we rushed into the arms of each other; the curtain drops; it is the pause of *nature*, the reader may partake of it if he pleases.

This revered, this beloved father, had waited in town beyond the time he first fixed for being at Castle Talbot; however great his impatience to embrace the son, so endeared to his affections, the interest he took in the preservation of my adorable aunt, was still greater; in giving Sir Edward an heir, she had been pronounced in imminent danger, and he could not tear himself from the distracted husband, until he saw him restored to composure by the declared safety of his precious treasure; more precious than ever, as being the jewel by which his blessings were multiplied.

Whoever is incapable of supposing what were the transports of all hearts, when my father on our return to the house, having presented me as the son of his hopes, seized on
the

the snow ball hand of my beautifully interesting, beautifully bashful Agnetta, and joining it with mine, said with a look and a voice I never shall forget, " lovely creature, from
" me receive the husband to whom from
" your very birth you have been destined ;
" and for you Talbot, whatever seeming
" rubs have been thrown in the way of your
" passion, they were only intended to root
" it the deeper, that you might be more
" worthy the inestimable gift Colonel Go-
" dolphin's partiality had prepared for
" you." Whoever, I say, has not enough
sensibility of their own to finish the scene,
the best second-hand representation would
give them no information ; I would never
attempt it, it is as difficult to ripen the seeds
of sensibility, in a soil neglected by nature,
as to teach a fool the wisdom of Solomon.

C H A P. XXXV.

And the very last.

THE recent death of my grandfather must of necessity protract the completion of my felicity; I submitted to the laws of decency without repining. Whoever dares to bid them defiance, dares to proclaim himself a rascal or an idiot; those who could have witnessed to my enviable situation during the month we continued in Wales, after we had collected ourselves all together, under the roof of our hospitable entertainer, would have given me as little credit, as I take to myself for an exertion of patience, supported by the constant presence, the artless smiles, the tender looks, the chaste

chaste love, the unaffected preference of my
foul's darling.

Supposing I had asked as a gift for Papa Owen, the half of Colonel Godolphin's possessions, I am persuaded he would have told me to dispose of it with as much cheerfulness, as he permitted me to become the purchaser of the twenty acres, the deeds of which I presented to him before we left Wales, on that very day when I led the blooming, blushing, simpering, curtsyng Winifred to the altar ; for although she was conveyed to the church in Lord Bellhaven's coach, as well as the bridegroom, yet she was quite as full of her thanks, as if I had brought her thither on my back. Agnetta and Henrietta, in virgin white, and heavenly beauty, were her two attendants. My God what a contrast ! I whispered my divinity, that I hoped she would contrive to look a little better than Winifred, on the morn of my nuptials. Papa Owen seemed so well satisfied, that I am sure he would
not

not have been half so contented if by mistake I had given him the hand of my mistress, instead of his own.

However dear the entrance, however regretted the exits of those dancing moments that found and left me basking in the sunshine of Agnetta's eyes ; yet some of them I resolved to employ on a duty that would snatch me from her sight, for at least twelve hours ; instead of a groom I took with me the confident of my early adventures, and attended only by Alexander, set out at day break, leaving a message for the family that I was going to take a long ride from which I might not perhaps return until evening.

I had replenished my purse, from the contents of my father's, intending to reward all from whom in my first peregrination I had received succour, or kindness. Alexander knew every foot of the way, he approved my purpose, we rode at a great rate, and our first halt was at the door of
the

the small house, where I had once so vigorously called out upon the lover of Charlotte ; it was shut up, and I proceeded to the more magnificent mansion of her tyrant father ; there I was equally unlucky, all the intelligence I could gain from a woman servant, who came to the door, was that the ruffian died soon after the marriage of his daughter, leaving his great riches to charitable funds, but first endeavoured to ruin her husband, by involving him in law-suits, and that in short, the young couple possessed of much happiness and a moderate competency, had emigrated to America.

I asked Alexander if he could go any further, without getting his breakfast ? " Please your honour," said he, " if the cattle and your Lordship can hold out, we'll try what is to be done." I had a mind to push on as far as — before I took any refreshment. We remounted, and by noon arrived at the sign of the Goat, before the gates of which well remembered

ed hotel, walked the benevolent landlord, with a decent looking woman hanging on his arm, whose face I thought myself no stranger to, without knowing exactly where it was that I had seen her.

When I set out on my Quixotting expedition, it was not in my plan to make a discovery of my person to my former benefactors ; but when my good humoured humane host came up to salute me with respect, bordering on prostration, all my caution forsook me ; I caught hold of his hand, asking with tears in my eyes, if he had forgotten the poor little boy, and the great dog, which his charity had saved from starving, seven years ago ? His mouth opened mechanically, but diffidence, that constant companion of sterling worth, tied his tongue. " Look at me," cried I, squeezing his hand more fervently, " behold in me " that infant vagabond, who being your " debtor for compassion, food, and shelter, " is come to discharge his obligation." I
had

had such difficulty to obtain the credit my assertions deserved, that Alexander was forced to interfere; he brought forward so many conclusive circumstances, that the honest soul was at last convinced; but from innate delicacy, seldom to be met with in that rank of people, after modestly rejoicing at my change of fortune, he dropped the subject, as if he thought to pursue it would have been an insult to my present condition. My esquire having sent away the woman to prepare breakfast, I took that opportunity to enquire of mine host what was become of his wife? he told me, she had been dead more than three years, that his neighbour at the Senator's Head, also dying a twelvemonth after, he had struck up a match with his widow, who besides being in tolerable circumstances, was a tame good woman. I joyfully interrupted him with congratulations on his fortunate exchange, "this," cried I, "is an ordinance of Providence, that meets my wishes," at the same moment she came to

tell us all was ready ; I then made myself known to her, as I had before done to her husband, and taking a hand of each, compelled them both to sit down by my side during the short time I required to dispatch my hasty repast. It may appear ridiculous, but it is true, that whilst I was enquiring for the dame by whom I had been so kindly entertained, I trembled for fear I should hear that she too was dead, and that I should see her no more ; on the contrary, I had the pleasure to find she was not only in good health, but living with much comfort through the means of an English lady, who every year sent her a present of twenty pounds ; I knew of this settlement, it was made by my aunt, and having left both my good host and hostess but too sensible of my gratitude for their humanity, I proceeded towards the hut of my dear old woman ; less than two hours brought me within view of it, I gave my horse to Alexander, and ran furiously over the meadow. It was feeding time, to which it might be rather owing,
than

than to any recollection of our ancient acquaintance, that the whole feathered family flocked round me as I passed through the yard, in my way to the cottage, now so clean, so ornamented with flowers, that I should hardly have found myself at home, if peeping through a casement covered with jessamine, I had not seen my *ci-devant* mistress, preparing food for her numerous dependants. I lifted up the latch; she lifted up her eyes. "My dear mother," said I, "you are employed as usual I see, "but where is the little stick, where the "boy that used to flog your hens?" "I "don't know who your honour may be," she replied, "but you make me weep to "think of that poor dear child, he is "an angel wherever he be, or I should "never have got over my troubles." I could no longer resist the impulse of my heart, I opened my bosom, shewed her the farthing she had hung round my neck; I caught her in my arms, and kissing her venerable forehead cried out, "oh my mo-

“ther ! my mother ! do you not remember me ?” she put on her spectacles, and stedfastly gazing on my face, she fell on my neck, her tears, her sobs, her acclamations were both pathetic and comic ; it was a long time before I could bring her to her right senses, then I would have prevailed on her to remove from her cottage, and live with Papa and Mamma Owen ; but she resisted all my entreaties, assuring me that she had long been freed from the great scourge of her life, it having pleased God to dispose of her enemies, and now that they were gone, she would not leave her abode for all the Prince of Wales’s untold riches. The arguments of age, are from their very weakness irresistible ; I made no more opposition, but entered into a sort of compromise, by which she was to engage a relation or friend to live with her, and I to support her new state, promised her fifty pounds a year, paying that sum in advance. Having settled this matter, I listened to a long account of the evil-eyed sisters, one of whom she

she averred the Devil had run away with by day-light, the other nobody could tell what was become of her ; three years ago, she was seen riding in the air, in the shape of a raven, and never came back any more. I staid so long, not to shew I thought her tedious, that when I returned to Colonel Godolphin's, the family were set down to supper, with the most melancholy faces in the world ; I came upon them by surprise, and if I had risen from the dead, instead of come off a journey, I could not have been received with more tumultuous raptures. I gave them a full and true account of my expedition, the motive of it was praised by all, but what were the praises of all, compared to the delicious draughts of approbation, which I quaffed from the sparkling love-speaking eyes of my Agnetta.

Having began my history in Wales, where it commenced, there it shall finish ; but let us draw the features of this striking picture
in

in youth and in maturity, let us examine and compare them together, from the age of thirteen to that of twenty-two, at which time these memoirs are written, a lesson of wisdom may be adduced from the comparison. It will at least afford much variety, if not instruction; behold in the background, a stubborn wilful ill-bred boy, unknown to himself, running from good and pursuing evil; behold him advancing in the canvas, arrived at man's estate, bending his sturdy humour at the voice of gentleness, polished by education, refined by love, exalted to rank, in possession of affluence; behold him the husband of Agnetta. Without that figure in the very dress and attitude, in which at this moment she appears to my enraptured sight, my sketch would be incomplete. Oh reader, behold her in the divine attitude of maternal tenderness, her lovely eyes speakingly contemplating the sleeping infant, whose beautiful face rests on the serene bosom of
its

its adorable mother ; see stretched at her feet, my faithful Trim bush, who being in youth the companion of my poverty, finds in the protection of Agnetta, the soft reposing cradle of old age.

THE END.

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